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The World's Daily Newspaper

London, Thursday, February 26, 1998

Kim Is Dealt a Rebuff On First Day in Office

Boycott of Parliament by Majority Party Blocks Korean's Nominee for Prime Minister

By Nicholas D. Kristof New York Times Service

SEOUL — Kim Dae Jung faced his first political crisis Wednesday, just a few hours after he was inaugurated president of South Korea, when the political opposition blocked his choice for prime minister and delayed formation of a cabinet.

Negotiations are under way, and Mr. Kim may coax enough votes in the National Assembly to allow approval of his prime minister. But the incident underscored the difficulties that Mr. Kim will face while governing the country with a party that commands only a minority of votes in the National

The nominee for prime minister, Kim Jong Pil, is an odd figure in today's South Korea, in part because he represents much of what President Kim does not. While Kim Dae Jung was a lifelong democracy campaigner, Kim Jong Pil started out as a military officer and was the architect of the 1961 coup d'état that led to more than a quarter-century of harsh military rule.

Kim Jong Pil, who even his critics acknowledge is brilliant and charming,

was also the founder of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency, responsible for brutal repression for more than two decades.

The agency in 1973 — after Kim Jong Pil had left it — kidnapped Kim Dae Jung in Japan and apparently planned to kill him until the United States intervened.

Still, Kim Dae Jung and Kim Jong Pil joined forces for the December election for what both sides generally admir were reasons of opportunism rather than policy: It was the only way that they could get elected. Kim Dae Jung almost certainly would not have won the presidency without the support of Kim Jong Pil, and their deal stipulated that if he was elected, Kim Dae Jung would become president and Kim Jong

Pil would become prime minister. The Grand National Party, which in the past controlled the presidency and still controls a majority of seats in the National Assembly, boycotted the legislature Wednesday — meaning that there was no quorum and no action could be taken — because it opposes Kim Jong Pil. It argues that he is a

See KOREA, Page 4



President Kim Dae Jung, right, conferring with his nominee for prime minister, Kim Jong Pil, at a reception Wednesday for his inauguration.

U.S. Sure of Allies If Saddam Reneges

'Very Firm Assurances' on Force

By Brian Knowlton International Herald Tribus

WASHINGTON - The United States has received "very firm assurances" from its allies that they will be "more supportive of the use of military force" against Iraq if President Saddam Hussein reneges on the new agreement about weapons inspections, the State Department said Wednesday.

James Rubin, the department spokesman, reported the assurances in response to sharp criticism from Republican senators of the agreement and of the man who brokered it, Kofi Annan,

the United Nations secretary-general.
The Senate majority leader, Trent
Lott of Mississippi, said it was "folly"
to trust Mr. Saddam, whom he labeled a 'mass murderer."

Senator Lott's comments appeared to reflect substantial congressional skepticism about the accord, particularly among members of his party.

Calls by Islamic militants for attacks on U.S. citizens are being taken seriously. Page 7.

Mr. Rubin strongly defended the ac-cord when he was asked about Mr. Loti's criticism.

Referring to Mr. Saddam, he said: "If he refuses to allow inspectors access, if he continues the pattern of stone-walling, we have very firm assurances from our friends and allies that they will be more supportive of the use of military

The agreement, reached last weekend, averted what appeared to be imminent U.S. air strikes on Iraq.
Mr. Rubin called the accord, which

Mr. Annan negotiated with Mr. Saddam, "a win-win situation for the U.S. administration.

It will lead either to more effective and comprehensive inspection of sus-pected weapons sites, he said, or to military action hacked by the allies to destroy the sites.

Despite some reservations about the UN deal, the United States and Britain worked Wednesday on a resolution that would spell out the consequences of Iraqi violation.

Any explicit threat of force, however, was unlikely to be supported by the other three permanent Security Council members, Russia, France and China, which had resisted threats of a military

Italy, meanwhile, said that the trade emhargo imposed on Iraq after the Gulf War in 1991 should be loosened and then lifted if Baghdad honored the new agreement.
'I think we have to arrive in a unified

way at a weakening and then a lifting of the embargo," Prime Minister Romano Prodi said.

Mr. Lott's criticism was more resounding than his initial comments Monday, when he said he feared the

See IRAQ, Page 7



Mrs. Albright, who persuaded the president to try diplomacy.

A Wary U.S. Came Around On Annan Trip **But Set Terms**

By Michael R. Gordon and Elaine Sciolino New York Times Service

WASHINGTON - Early Feb. 15, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright boarded a small C-20 air force plane at Andrews Air Force Base and flew to New York for a secret meeting with the secretary-general of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, at his townhouse.

Mrs. Albright was carrying a confidential paper that laid out the 'red lines,' or U.S. requirements for his mission to proceed. In her meeting with Mr. Annan, the two diplomats discussed what eventually became the Iraqi agreement with the United Nations.

The conversation, which lasted almost two hours, also resolved weeks of debate by President Bill Clinton and his top national security aides over the best way to settle the most recent crisis with Iraq, according to senior administration officials And it demonstrated that Washington was far more actively involved in planning the UN chief's mission that it previously acknowledged.

During intense discussions. Mr. Clinton and his national security ad-

See POLICY, Page 7

Sir Eiton Gets Tring on the Cabi

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Newsstand Prices



Indonesia Is Lagging as Others in Asia Recover

help to confront the haze threat. Page 4.

By Michael Richardson International Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE - As Indonesia sinks deeper into economic difficulty, social unrest and political un-certainty, South Korea and Thailand, which appeared to be in much greater trouble than Indonesia just a few months ago, have turned the corner, in the eyes of creditors and financial markets.

Indonesia's fall from grace was all the more striking Wednesday when Kim Dae Jung was sworn into office as the first opposition figure in South Korea to become president. Before the crisis hit East Asia, Indonesia's authoritarian government and political continuity were seen by many business executives and regional officials as sources of strength, not weakness, in a his own hands after more than 30 years in office,

U.S. Ponders

Why Students

Trail the World

On Math Tests

By Ethan Bronner

New York Times Service

parison of schooling ever undertaken reveals that American high school se-

niors are among the industrial world's least prepared in mathematics and sci-

That finding is prompting American educators and officials, including Pres-

ident Bill Clinton, to call for a re-ex-

amination of the nation's approach to teaching quantitative skills.

Particularly devastating, American officials said, was the hleak perfor-

mance of the best American students in

advanced subjects. In physics and advanced mathematics, not one of the

countries involved — even less-weil-off

nations like Greece, Cyprus and Latvia

- scored lower than the United States.

In general knowledge of mathematics, which includes fractions and per-

centages, graphics and some algebra,

Americans in their last year of high school did better than those in only two countries, Cyprus and South Africa.

Students in four countries - Italy,

Russia, Lithuania and the Czech Re-

public - performed at the same level as

those in the United States. Fourteen

countries ontperformed America, led by

the Netherlands and Sweden. The re-

sults were similar for general science.

The study, based on tests given in 1994 and 1995, was sponsored by the

International Association for the Eval-

uation of Educational Achievement, an

international cooperative of research

centers based in Amsterdam. Results

NEW YORK - The most comprehensive and rigorous international comcountry comprising thousands of islands and diverse ethnic, linguistic and religious groups.

Yet, many analysts now say they agree that democratic political change in South Korea and Thailand responsible for the country's currency and slocks.

In dollar terms. South Korea's stock market has risen 34 percent this year, and shares in Thailand are up

has helped produce governments with sufficient pop Southeast Asia has appealed for international

ular backing to carry through painful economic reforms demanded by the International Monetary Fund in exchange for multibillion-dollar rescue loans, while lack of a similar credible commitment by Indonesia's President Suharto, who has gathered power tightly in

nearly 50 percent, while Jakarta's Composite Index

has fallen 30 percent, according to Bloomberg News.
"The new governments in Seoul and Bangkok have come in as saviors to give hope," said a prominent Indonesian critic of the Suharto regime, who asked not to be identified. "In Jakarta, we have a dying dynasty that gives no hope of real change. Suhario cannot be depended on the carry out the right policies consistently because fundamental reform would undermine his power, which depends on political patronage and

See INDONESIA, Page 4

AGENDA

Israeli TV Asserts **Mossad Trips Up** In European Nation

JERUSALEM (Reuters) - Israel's Mossad spy agency, its reputation in tatters over a bungled assassination bid in Jordan, has botched another undercover operation, this time in Western Europe, Israeli television re-

ported Wednesday.
The Channel One report said arrests had been made in "one of the most friendly countries toward Israel in Western Europe," but that other details about the operation were classified because "a man's life is in danger." In Bern, Switzerland's top prose-

Thursday to brief reporters on an espionage case. Swiss security officials said the case was linked to the Israeli "All I can say is that it involves an espionage case. I cannot say any more in advance," said a spokesman for Carla Del Ponte, the federal prosecutor, adding that a senior Swiss For-eign Ministry official would also at-

cutor called a news conference for

tend the hriefing.

The latest scandal erupted a day after the Mossad chief, Danny Yatom, a former army general, announced his resignation. He was widely assumed to have quit because of a failed attempt last September to kill Khaled Meshal, a leader of the militant Islamic group Hamas, in Amman, Jordan's capital.



CALIFORNIA BATTERED - Rescue workers searching for the bodies of two California Highway Putrol officers whose car was swept away in a mudslide near Santa Maria. Storms caused by the El Niño weather pattern were responsible for the deaths of nine people. Page 2.

	The Dollar	
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The Clinton-Starr Battle Gets 'Personal'

Legal Conflict Escalates as Sides Trade Allegations of Abuse of Power

By Ruth Marcus and Roberto Suro Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The already ferocious legal battle between President Bill Clinton and Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, has gone nuclear.
The latest escalation concerns the

White House's tactics and Mr. Start's response. The prosecutor asserts that Mr. Clinton's allies may have gone beyond the bounds in spreading negative information about some of Mr. Starr's lieutenants. The Clinton administration retorts that Mr. Starr has over-reached in launching an obstruction-of-justice investigation of their alleged actions. "A clear abuse of power," said Joe Lockhart, a White House spokesman, of

Mr. Starr's subpoenas to Sidney Blu-

menthal, a White Honse aide, and Terry

Lenzner, the private investigator hired imagine any quick or easy resolution of the conflict. responded with a rare prosecutorial explanation of the grand jury's work.

He said that "misinformation" was being spread about his staff and that he was merely "using traditional and ap-propriate techniques to find out who is

White House duels with prosecutors over executive privilege. Page 3.

responsible and whether their actions are intended to intimidate prosecutors and investigators, impede the work of the grand jury, or otherwise obstruct justice.

Some legal experts say they believe both sides have lost their bearings and have become so entrenched in their warring positions that it is difficult to

"This thing has grown much too per-

sonal on both sides," said Susan Low Bloch, a law professor at Georgetown University. "These events show the dangers of having an unlimited prosecution focused on one target. One of those dangers is that it causes the other side to take measures it wouldn't oth-

Things have escalated to the point that they are dangerous and it's hard to see how anyone is going to defuse it." Said Stephen Gillers, a legal ethics expert at New York University, "This

case is in a category all by itself in terms of the stakes and in terms of the ferocity of the contest. Outside the grand jury room, the facts

See CLINTON, Page 7

End of the \$150 Sneaker?

Fashion Trends and Asian Turmoil Deflate Nike

By Tim Smart

WASHINGTON - Bye-bye, Air Jordan. Hello, park ranger. Nike Inc., the maker of stylish athletic shoes, including those worn by the baskerball superstar Michael Jordan, said Tuesday that the changing whims of teenage fashion and Asia's economic

As a result, the company said it will lay off an unspecified number of employees and take a charge in its fiscal third quarter ending Saturday as it restructures its business. Nike's problem? Teenagers are turn-

woes were eating away at its profit

margins.

ing against the \$150 space-age athletic footwear in favor of hiking boots and other more mundane shoes, like Britain's déclassé Doc Martens. The troubles in Asia, where Nike's products are both sold and manufactured, are also hurting the company. One of the fastest-rising issues of the 1990s, Nike stock rose sixfold from 1994 to 1997 as its products and trade-

mark "swoosb" symbol became a hip

fashion statement. Analysts said it might be a while before the stock re-

gains its bounce, given the faddish nature of this industry. For the quarter, the company said it expected to report earnings of 24 cents to 28 cents a share, down from 80 cents a year ago. Until the recent swoon, analysts were forecasting earnings of 39

cents a share. Nike's top-of-the-line running shoe, the Air Max, has repeatedly risen in price the past few years. They oow cost more than S125 a pair. Products from competitors, often rated by industry magazines as better in terms of their quality and performance, often sell for \$20 or more below Nike's offerings.

This world of ever-escalating prices \$1.875.



ran smack into the latest craze among young "fashion-setters" for a more 'back to basics' look, said Dana Telsey, an analyst with Bear, Steams & Co. That has benefited such manufacturers as Timberland and Wolverine. "Sneakers are sold on style and

price," she said. "As the sneakers got fancier and fancier, the prices rose. Nike's longtime use of endorsements by top athletes also appears to be back-

firing, analysts said, as the stars age and

lose their appeal to a younger audi-The result of all this has been a huge buildup in Nike inventories, which are being marked down to reflect their new status on retailers' shelves. Nike said a week and a half ago that its inventory

had soared by nearly \$500 million, to

\$1.4 billion. The announcement of falling profit and imminent layoffs drove down Nike's stock, which was already down 40 percent over the last year, but had been rebounding recently on speculation that the billionaire Warren Buffen was increasing his stake in the com-

After falling more than \$3 on Tuesday, Nike's shares mse on the New York Stock Exchange to close at \$45, up

PAGE TWO

Women's Wealth / An 'Excessive Fondness'

For Indians, Ignoring World, All That Glitters Is Gold

By Miriam Jordan Special to the Herald Tribune

EW DELHI - Never mind that gold is losing its glitter as an investment worldwide, Subhash Bhola's jewelry shop is doing brisk business. So are hundreds of other gold stores that cram the same middle-class neighborhood in New Delhi. "In India, gold demand is constant," said Mr. Bhola,

owner of Bholasons Jewelers. "For low- and middleclass people, it is their social security.

Central banks from Australia to Switzerland are dumping gold because they no longer regard it as a safe reserve. Across the globe, wary individuals are ditching their gold investments. The price of gold has plummeted from \$873 an ounce in early 1980 to an average of \$322 in 1997.

But in India, faith in gold remains unshakable.
"We keep reading that gold prices are dropping—it's a poor investment," said Gayairi Gladiock as she placed an order for 22-karat gold earrings at her local jeweler.

an order for Z2-karat gold earnings at her local jeweler.

"But it's stuck in our psyche."

Despite being a poor country with a per-capita income of \$350 a year, India is the world's largest buyer of gold. In 1997, demand surged 45 percent, to 737 metric tons from 508 tons a year earlier. India is the fastest-growing gold market in the world, according to the World Gold

Since gold production in India is negligible, jewelers traditionally rely on snnnggled supplies to satisfy the huge demand. Last year, however, Indians gained greater access to gold than ever before, thanks to government steps that liberalized imports. Among the measures, New Delhi licensed several banks and trading companies to import gold for domestic sale. Uotil 1997, these institutions could import gold only for jewelry exporters.

"We don't have a gold culture; we have a gold ob-session," said Rashmi Vaidyalingam, a New Delhi law-

This obsession is centuries old and reflects Hindu culture, religiou and society. Gold jewels cascade down the effigies of Hindu gods such as Lakshmi, the goddess of good fortune. In the 19th century, a crafisman sometimes devoted 10 years to making a single gold ornament for a maharajah.

The lure and importance of gold among Indian women cut across caste and economic boundaries. During holiday season, disheveled peasants wearing tiny gold nose studs and matronly types dripping in gold cootraptions line up outside jewelry shops to buy gold across India, in villages and in big cities.

In this society where most women don't hold property, bank accounts or other assets, gold is considered stree

dhan, Hindi for woman's wealth. For a woman to enter wedlock without gold is inconceivable.

Most families will not marry off a daughter until they can give her a trousseau containing at least two gold bangles, a gold necklace, earrings, a ring and a nose pin. At current gold prices, that costs about 100,000 rupees (\$2,550). Though part of the dowry, gold jewelry is for the daughter to keep: It is meant to beautify her and secure

'Gold is the savior of Indian women in times of crisis,' said G. S. Pillai, New Delhi manager of the World Gold Council. "If her husband dies or throws her out of the house, she has her gold. Nobody can touch it."

HE RECENT rise in silver prices had many Indians cashing in their silver. But to sell gold is unthinkable, except in times of distress, they say.
Regardless of price fluctuations, Indians are usoally determined to accumulate gold through the years. Middle-class and wealthy Indian women keep most of their gold jewelry stashed in banks or in safes at home. According to the World Gold Council, India holds at least 7 percent of the world's gold stock, or about 9,500 tons. But nobody really knows how much gold there is in India. Some say the actual figure is closer to 30,000 tons.

Steep taxation on income and traditional assets, such as property, led many Indians to convert cash into gold during decades of socialist-style rule. Though the government has lowered tax rates in recent years, the overwhelming ma-jority of Indians still pay cash for their gold purchases and prefer not to leave any trace of their transaction.

"Gold is a subject that most people are not willing to discuss," Mr. Pillai of the gold council said. "No shap-keeper will disclose how much he sells. Most gold is sold

Surveying the customers bent over glass display counters that line both sides of his shop, Mr. Bhola said, "At least 95 percent of them pay cash." The gold council estimates that

the average expenditure per buyer is about \$200.

Though it seems impossible to find an Indian who is concerned that the role of gold as a store of value may be slipping, some are beginning to worry about the re-percussions of a long-term decline in gold prices.

'In a society where the low-income class has invested their life's savings in gold, this could be a disaster waiting to happen," said Narendar Pani, an economic columnist. Mr. Pani says the government needs to devise programs that would encourage Indians to redirect some of their

investments in gold into more productive savings. The government, he said, has failed to address "the basic problem of an excessive fondness for gold among



Indians are the world's leading consumers of gold. At bottom, Sikh goldsmiths working in Jaipur. 'Gold is the savior of Indian women in times of crisis. If her husband dies or throws her out, she has her gold.'



Senators Now Buy NATO Expansion

By Philip Shenon

WASHINGTON - The Clintoo administratioo's campaign to sell the Senate oo the expansion of NATO appears to be ocaring a successful conclusion, with the final approval of the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who said the expansion willmake NATO strooger and make Europe more peaceful and united.

The chairman, Senator Jesse Helms, Republican of North Carolina, suggested at a committee hearing that he had overcome his concern about the cost of adding Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to the military alliance and hoped for an "overwhelmingly posi-tive" vote by the full Senate sometime within the oext two weeks.

At what was billed Tuesday as the committee's final hearing oo the issue before the Senate vote, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Secretary of Defense William Cohen and General Henry Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, made their final pitch for NATO enlargement.

But their salesmanship was mostly unnecessary, given the enthusiastic sup-port for the expansioo plan voiced by senators from both political parties at the hearing. Although several lawmakers raised coocerns about the cost of adding NATO members and its potential effect ou relations with Russia, there was no suggestion that any of them would vote against expansion.

With Senate approval virtually as-

The debate has shifted to whether a delay should be placed on any second round of new members.

sured, the debate has shifted to whether the Senate should impose a delay on any second round of new members - for countries like Romania, which France favors, or Slovenia, which Italy supports — out of concern that additional NATO expansion would antagonize

Senator John Warner, Republican of Virginia, who has been the most outspoken on the issue, said he would seek to impose a three-year moratorium on a second round. Congressional officials say it is unclear if Mr. Warner would succeed in trying to amend the Senate

resolotion, although he has clearly caught the attention of the administration, which is trying to block his efforts.

Mrs. Albright said a Senate-man-

dated morasorium on a second round of new NATO members would "be dangerous and utterly unnecessary, since the Senate would, in any case, have to approve the admission of new allies."

'It would be seen as a vote of no confidence in the reform-minded governments from the Baltics to the Balkans." she continued. "It would diminish the incentive nations oow have to cooperate with their neighbors and with NATO. It would fracture the cousensus NATO itself has reached on its open door."

With several senators at the hearings more interested in the United Nationsbrokered deal with Iraq over arms inspections than the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the budget for NATO expansion provoked little discussion

In the past, several senators had described the cost of the expansion as a key factor in whether they would sup-port the addition of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to the alliance. But it seemed far from a make-or-break issue at Tuesday's hearing.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Italy to Open 2 Borders

ROME (AFP) - Passport controls on Italy's borders with France and Austria will be abolished by the end of March, the Foreign Ministry announced

The move, announced by the sec-retary of state for foreign affairs, Piero Fassino, would bring Rume into compliance with the Schengen accord on free movement between signatory countries. The signatories to the accord are Austria, the Benelux countries, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal and Spain.

Sabena Belgian World Airlines said Wednesday that as of March 29 it would offer twice-weekly flights, ou Saturday and Sunday, from Brussels to Ajaccio on the French island of Corsica. (AP)

The ban on commercial flights to Sierra Leone was lifted Wednesday by the Nigerian-led intervention force that had ousted the country's coup-installed leadership. The coup prompted a variety of sanctions on Freetown, including the air-travel restrictions.

About 1.8 million tourists visited ofocco in 1997, an increase of nearly 12 percent from the previous year, a government agency reported, but tourism revenue was down 3 percent in the first 11 months from a year earlier, to 10.53 billion dirhams (\$1.08 billion).

New Storm Kills 9 in California

meling Over

El Nino-Related Rains Unleash Tornadoes and **Mudslides on Coast**

> By Todd S. Purdum New York Thmes Service

LOS ANGELES - The worst El Nine storm of a stormy winter left much of California cleaning up Wednesday from torrential rains, rare tornadoes, treacherous mudslides and flash flooding that damaged homes, washed away cars and caused the deaths of at least nine people from the central coast to the Mexican border.

Two California Highway Patrol of-ficers who had gone to check on mo-torists in distress on Highway 166 in the ranch country northwest of Santa Bar-bara died Tuesday after the Cuyama River washed away a chunk of the road and carried off a tractor-trailer, half at dozen cars and the officers' cruiser.

In Claremont, a college town on the eastern outskirts of Los Angeles, two students, both 19, were killed when soggy ground gave way Monday and a tree crushed them inside their sportutility vehicle. Another man died in a canyou above Laguna Beach in Orange County after a mudslide poured through

a house where he had sought shelter.

A sixth person died in a 13-vehicle pileup on a fog-shrouded highway in the San Joaquin Valley. Another died and four were missing from a car washed away in Tijuana, Mexico, where some 800 people huddled in shelters after being evacuated from shantytowns. In Susanville, two people were killed

when a tanker-truck driver lost control of his rig on icy Highway 395, The Associated Press reported Tuesday. By afternoon Tuesday, clouds had given way to sunshine in the Los Angeles basin, and oo heavy rain was

forecast through the weekend.

Los Angeles has set a record for February rainfall, 13.68 inches (34.74 centimeters), the wettest February since 1884, when 13.37 inches fell, and the third wettest single month in the city since record-keeping began in 1877.

Statewide, a series of storms since the beginning of the month has caused more than \$500 million in damage, prompting Governor Pete Wilson to declare states of emergency in nearly two-thirds of California's 58 counties.

Clinton Tours Central Florida

President Bill Clinton toured an area in central Florida on Wednesday still reeling from tornadoes, assessing damage from the storms and planning to offer victims words of comfort and a promise ported from Kissimmee, Florida.

Mr. Clinton, who has already declared the region a disaster area, flew over the area to view the damage wreaked by a series of tornadoes that roared through Monday.

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TOPICS

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WEEKEND SKI REPORT

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Vipe d'Huez	90	240	Good	Open	Pedr	23/2	80/86 Bis open, very good skiling	Klosters	15 .			Some			goodsking: all litts open
84 Arcs	25	160	Good			23/2	75/77 Ets Q., v. good, moved snow	Murren	50	80	good				generally good on soft snow
woriaz	135	105	Good	Open			41 Bis a., improved conditions	Sees Fee	56	190	Good				great stary after treat snow
Ziemonix	70	210	Good	Art	Ped		af Bis open, good above 1800m	St. Mortz	30	155	Good	Art			mined conditions, hard in places
Courchevel	120	125	Good	Open	Pedr		65/58 fills a., new snow, good shirty	Verbier	25		good				very good sking: most little open :
es Deux Aloes		280	Good	Open	Pud		hally open, greatering	Wengen	15	80	Good				much improvededing after enouncies
lains	85	210	Good	Open			27/28 Bis open, new snow, good	Zermatt	35	140	Good	Att	Pect	23/2	excellent sixting at all levels
Aggove	10	25	Good				7481 Bis a., much improved pieces	U.S.							
Aéribei	105	115	Good	Art			al ills open, good hin sking	Aspen	115	128	Good	Open	Pedr	24/2	great skiling with 41/45 life upon 4
a Plagne	120	215	Good	Coen		23/2	106/110 lits open, great sking	Brackanridge	125	150	Good	Open	Var		at trails and its open: good sking
erre Chevaller	70	215	Good	Open	Pedr		at its open, very good skiing , busy	Crested Butte	138	160	Good	Open	Peck		great sking in fresh snow; all list o.
a Tania	30	125	Good	Coen			of Mrs open, much improved sking	Marranoth	510	690	Good	Open	Pack		lentestic sking conditions
	115	170	Good	Open			most Ets open, great conditions	Park City	225	230	Good	Open	Var		al ills and balls open; very good!
al Cisers	100	220	Good	Open			most its o., success then more	Vall	140	146	Good	Open			great elding in tresh arour, all opely
al Thorans		250	Good	Open			al 30 lits open, great sking	Winter Park	180	180	Good	Open		23/2	ad trails open with good skiing ,
iormany								KevaL Ut Denda in co	o on l	144E	ed upper e	innes M	m Al-	-	alahistratik (basiltan dilipi
amisch	0	185	Good	Open	Poid	25/2	upper stopes sking ok	,			- oppos		Inda		1

WEATHER

Forecast for Friday through Sunday, as provided by AccuWeathe

Mohammad Mehdi, U.S. Islamist, Dies

The Associated Press
NEW YORK — Mohammad T. Mehdi, an expert oo the Middle East and a leader in Arab and Islamic affairs in the United States, died here Monday of a heart attack. He was 70 years old. Mr. Mehdi had been a leading spokesman for the U.S. Arab and Is-

lamic communities for the last 40 years, giving voice to the concerns of Palestinian and Muslim causes all over the He was born in one of the holiest cities of Islam - Karbala, Iraq - and

came to the United States in 1948 on a scholarship from the Iraqi government to study at the University of California at Berkeley. He graduated with a degree in political science in 1952.

Mr. Mehdi briefly taught political science at Berkeley and then became director of the Arab Information Office in San Francisco during the 1950s. In 1961, he received a doctorate in constitutional law from the University of

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general of the National Council on Islamic Affairs since 1964, the year the council was formed. That same year, he was elected president of the American Arab Relations Committee, a position he held until his death. Both organizations are based in New York City. -

Edith Oliver, 84, Theater Critic NEW YORK (NYT) - Edith Oliver, 84, a diminotive, raspy-voiced and highly influential drama critic at The New Yorker magazine for more than three decades, died here on Monday.

She also was a dramaturge for 20 seasons at the National Playwrights Conference in Waterford, Connecticut. From 1937 until 1941, she wrote the radio quiz show "True or False?" and

for a dozen years, beginning in 1940, she wrote and later produced "Take It or Leave It: The \$64 Question." Miss Oliver began contributing to The New Yorker in 1947 and joined the staff in 1961 as a movie and theater critic, eventually becoming among the

most influential voices covering off-

Broadway theater. She also ran the magazine's book department for many years, while continuing to write. In 1987, she began to share the cov-

erage of Broadway shows for The New Yorker, first with Mimi Kramer and then with John Lahr. She retired in 1992. Umberto Mastroianni, Sculptor

ROME (AP) - Umberto Mastroianni, 87, a sculptor known for his largescale futurist creations in bronze, died Wednesday at his home near Rome after a long illness. Considered one of Italy's leading

contemporary sculptors, Mr. Mastroianni received oumerous Italian and foreign awards for his works.

He began exhibiting his work at age 21 and most recently had been working on a monument for a Rome fountain. His last work, a large panel, was completed in 1994 for the Teatro Regio in Turin. He briefly held the chair of sculpture at the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome. He was an uncle of the actor Marcello

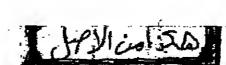
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THE AMERICAS

El Nino-Related Unleash Tornada Mudslides on Con

By Todd S. Park

LOS ANGELES Nino storm of a stormy to of California cleaning of from torrential rains by trencherous mudslides and ing that damaged homes, the cars and caused the deale nine people from the centre.

Two California Higheat ficers who had gone to the torrats in distress on Highest ranch country northwest bara died Tuesday after at River washed away a charge and carried off a tractore.

in Claremont, a college, eastern outskirts of Los & students, both 19, were students, both 29, were students. tree crushed them inside utility vehicle. Another meicanyon above Laguna Book County after a mudslide poe-

a nouse where he had sough A sixit person died male pileup on a log-shrouded he. San Joaquin Valley, Annie, four were missing from to awas as Tijuana, Mexico, & 500 people huddled in the being evacuated from share. in Susamville, two peoples. when a tables-muck driver.

of the rig on by Highway? Associated Press reponed to By arterneon Tuesday, c. given way to sunshine go . Lagues hairn, and no hemfurerust through the weeken Los Angeles has set a recei

That's fundadi. 13.68 inches@ introduction the westest Febru 1834. when 13 37 inches at. there wettest single monitor sames record-liveping beginshing Since wide, a series of storage neganizing of the month bases?

Guy e-mer. Pete Wilson to dest or emergency in nearly with California's 58 counties.

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PORT

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A STANDARD

when the Pacific Lumber woodmen agree to spare the tree, worth perhaps \$100,000 as So she goes on living on an 8-by-8-foot plywood platform under a dome of tarpaulins, using candles for light, a onemargarine container for you-know-what us to buy us extra books." burner propane stove for cooking, an empty and spending her days - how else? -

New Ston Dueling Over Executive Privilege Kills 9 in Clinton Could Invoke Weapon to Shield Aides in Starr Inquiring

Clinton Could Invoke Weapon to Shield Aides in Starr Inquiry

nternational Herold Tribunc

WASHINGTON — The White House is locked in "ongoing discussions" with prosecutors in an attempt to avoid a confrontation over the use of executive privilege to exempt presidenrial aides from having to testify about aspects of the Monica Lewinsky case, a spokesman said Wednesday.

The spokesman, James Kennedy. would not specifically confirm or deny a report Wednesday in The New York Times that the White House had already decided to invoke executive privilege to "shield some of President Bill Clinton's closest advisers from questioning.

But Lanny Breuer, an associate White

House counsel who has worked to protect Mr. Clinton from legal fallout sur-"rounding the Whitewater real-estate af-fair, was summoned before the 23member jury. His appearance, expected "as early as Wednesday, could precipitate an assertion of executive privilege.

To do so in a criminal investigation "could have serious legal implications;
"courts have ruled that an executive privilege assertion can be overruled if prosdezen cars and the officers. Hege assertion can be overtimed the clarences. the information being sought and cannot obtain it otherwise Politically, Mr. Clinton's detractors

"would be certain to portray such an assertion as a sign that the president had something to hide. Another rop presidential aide, Sidney

Blumenthal, appeared Tuesday without testifying and was ordered to return Thursday with records of any conversations he has had with reporters about the Lewinsky investigation.

The Times, quoting lawyers involved in the case, said that Mr. Clinton decided to invoke executive privilege after Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, filed a motion last week to compel Bruce Lindsey, the deputy White House coun-'sel and one of the president's closest friends and advisers, to testify. Mr. Lindsey deferred answers to some questions in two grand-jury appearances.

Judge Norma Holloway Johnson of U.S.

District Court, who is overseeing the grand jury, could hear arguments on a White House assertion of executive privilege as early as this week. The Times said.

ident had invoked the privilege to shield

I have heard nothing from the lawyers that would encourage me to follow the Times story," he said. "The counsel's office is trying to find a reasonable solution to this issue in ongoing discussions with the office of independent counsel."

Pressure: Bill Clinton totals issue in ongoing discussions with the office of independent counsel."

Pressure: Finding to Bake in ongoing discussions with the office of independent counsel."

Pressure: Finding to Bake in ongoing discussions with the office of independent counsel. who might be able to shed light on how personal lives of Ms. Toensing, Mr. discussions with the office of independent counsel. She moved from an unpaid internship to Genova, prosecutors, investigators, or a paid White House job in late 1995 and members of the press. "



Sidney Blumenthal, right, and his attorney. Jo Marsh, speaking to reporters outside the U.S. District Courthouse in Washington, Mr. Blumenthal was subpoenaed by Kenneth Starr to testify before a grand jury.

affair with Ms. Lewinsky, a former intern, what led to her abrupt and involuntary and then urged her to deny it under oath. transfer to the Pentagon five months The president has denied the charges.

On Wednesday, prosecutors questioned witnesses who might be able to explain the circumstances around the sudden transfer of Ms. Lewinsky from her White House job to the Pentagon on April 17, 1996. One of these was Timothy Keating,

the official who arranged the transfer. In a related development, a federal judge on Tuesday gave lawyers for Paula Mr. Kennedy, the White House Jones, the former Arkansas state em-spokesman, said that even if the presployee who has sued Mr. Clinton for his aides, grand-jury secrecy require-ments would not permit the White House suit. The trial is scheduled for May 27. Lewinsky Co-Workers Sought

Susan Schmidt and Toni Locy of The

Washington Post reported earlier: Mr. Starr has sought testimony from

later. Prosecutors are examining that career path for clues to whether she had a sexual relationship with Mr. Clinton despite his denial.

But prosecutors were moving in so many directions and had so many witnesses on hand Tuesday that they sent several of them home without bringing

them before the grand jury to testify.

Scparately, Mr. Clinton's attorneys. David Kendall and Robert Bennett, said they endorsed a White House statement sexual misconduct, more time to respond to a request by his attorneys to dismiss the suit. The trial is scheduled for May 27.

denying accustions by Joseph diGenova, a Republican former prosecutor, that into him and his wife. Visit of the continued, he could not distinct him and his wife. Visit of the continued, he could not distinct him and his wife. into him and his wife. Victoria Toensing, a former prosecutor.

There is public information available, which, of course, it is our duty as tivity counsel to research and gather," the

POLITICAL NOTES

Senate Finance Bill Survives (in a Way)

WASHINGTON - In a symbolic victory for the hill's sponsors, the Senate has voted to keep alive legislation that would overhaul the way political campaigns in the United States are public-finance law. financed

But the Senate's vote of 51 to 48 on Tuesday against the attempt by Senator Trent Lott, Republican of Mississippi, to kill the bipartisan eampaign-finance legislation is only a limited victory for supporters. The votes fell well short of the 60 need to break a Republican filibuster, a senatorial technique that would keep the bill from winning final approval this year.

The bill's sponsors, Senators John McCain, Republican of Arizona, and Russell Feingold, Democrat of Wisconsin, had long sought a direct vote on their proposal. A total of 44 Democrats and 7 Republicans voted to sustain the campaign-finance measure, and 48 Republicans voted to kill it.

fensive, using a parliamentary tactic that would allow him to choke off any more amendments that might build nior: Republican support for the Mc-Cain Ferngolo bill,

tie the Senate in procedural knots protection against lawsuits.

throughout the year to keep campaignfinance overhaul alive.

The confrontation came in the aftermath of a 1996 presidential election that saw the virtual collapse of the public campaign-finance system, as the two parties found ways to use socalled soft money to find ways around

the campaign spending limits in the

But while the Republican leadership was intent on examining the president's campaign-finance practices, it has fiercely resisted legislation that would eat into the party's fund-raising advantage. Mr. Lott worked hard last year to prevent the campaign-finance bill from coming to the floor, and only grudgingly allowed the vote Tuesday after overhaul supponers created a three-week logjam in the Senate last

The McCain-Feingold bill would ban soft money — the unlimited, un-regulated large donations to political parties — which was at the heart of many of the 1996 abuses.

Minutes after allowing the overhaul torces their symbolic victory, Mr. Lot, the majority leader, went on the of-

WASHINGTON - The top execunives of the major tobacco companies have told the Senate that they would never agree to modify their advertising Democrats responded by threaten- and marketing practices unless the lawing to do what they did last year; try to makers gave the industry substantial

Advertising is "rightful, legal bebavior for a consumer-product company," Steven Goldstone, chairman and chief executive officer of RJR Nabisco Holding Corp., told the Senate Commerce Committee on Tuesday.

It's our constitutional right, and if we stop doing it," he continued, making a swooping motion with his hand, our business is going to go like

The issue is critical because a central lement of the accord reached last June by the tobacco companies and most of the state attorneys general, which can go into effect only to the degree it is approved by Congress, involves a trade-off. The companies would trade what they contend is their constitu-tional right ro advertise their products broadly for immunity from class-action lawsuits.

But some in Congress are reluctant to give such a legal break to the industry. (NYT)

Quote/Unquote

Susan McDougal, serving an 18-month jail sentence for refusing to an-swer Kenneth Starr's questions on the Whitewater case before a grand jury, saying that the independent counsel is placing Monica Lewinsky in an awk-ward position: "What they re saying to Monica Lewinsky: 'Either you tell our story or we prosecute you for perjury." There's no way you can just go in and tell the truth to these people." (AP)

Pentagon Under Attack (by Hackers)

'Fairly Heavy' Offensive Launched Against Unclassified Networks

The Assectated Press

WASHINGTON — During the last two weeks, the Pentagon's unclassified imputer networks have been subjected "tairly heavy cyber attacks," deputy secretary of defense, John

Hantre, said Wednesday. "It was the most organized and systematic attack the Pentagon has seen to

date," Mr. Hamre said. He added that the event had "all the appearances of a game' and apparently

vulge many details because the military was working with the Justice Department to determine potential criminal ac-

The attacks appear to be directed at lawyers said. "But we have not inves- unclassified information, like personnel records or payroll matters, he said.

"Our classified networks were intact trying in recent years to update its deand not penetrated," he said, describing the attacks as "widespread and modestly sophisticated."

During the last two weeks, the department experienced fairly heavy cyber nacks," Mr. Hamre said.

He explained that the apparent hackers tried to enter networks handled hy all hranches of the military services. 'All the services had penetration to

some degree," he explained.
The attacks could be described as voyeurism or vandalism," he contin-

"There are hackers who enjoy breaking into peoples' computers just to see what they can see," he said, adding that there was a certain "mystique" attached to breaking into the Pentagon's com-

The Defense Department has been those responsible.

fenses againsr such attacks, be noted. 'We have to do a good deal more in

Mr. Hamre said that the attacks appeared to be occurring at a time when a 'hacker contest" was going on. He did not say where such an event originated or offer a further explanation.

Officials suspect that the Pentagon was not the only institution under attack and that networks in the private sector may also have been subject to hacking,

Mr. Hamre said he could not offer any figure for setting up defenses against computer backers

But he called for the government to develop a monitoring program and a network of contacts so that it can more quickly verify such attacks and identify

Ruling Lets New York Move Sex Shops Away From

ALBANY, New York - New York state's "of a New York City zoning law that bans sex-related businesses from residential neighborThe ruling does not mean sex sh hoods, paving the way for the city to start closing sex shops that violate the law.

After the decision by the New York State Court of Appeals, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani declared that the city would begin closing 138 peep shows, topless bars and X-rated video pariors next week in areas like Times Square, which in years past had become nearly synonymous with sex businesses.

AMERICAN

TOPICS

Julia (Butterfly) Hill got most of what

she wanted for her birthday — a carrot

cake, a pint of fresh-squeezed orange juice

and a bottle of organic zinfandel. But the

top item on her list will have to wait.
"I want a hor shower," said Ms. Hill, an

activist with the group Earth First who has

spent 76 days perched in a California red-

wood, protesting plans to log the old-

Ms. Hill, who turned 24 lasr week, has

been wearing the same clothes since she climbed the 1,000-year-old, 200-foot (60-

meter) tree, which overlooks Eel River in

Humboldt County, reports the Los Angeles

In more than two months, she has taken

just three quick sponge baths. But her bond to the tree is unshaken. When she first

visited a redwood forest, she says, she fell

to her knees and began to cry, utterly awed by "the cathedral of the redwoods."

Ms. Hill endures thunderstorms, winds

of up to 90 miles (145 kilometers) an hour,

near-freezing temperatures and the verbal

taunts of employees of Pacific Lumber, the

company that owns the land where her tree,

The company owns one of the largest

privately held groves of ancient redwoods

in the world, including 10,000 acres of old-

The issue of protecting them has po-

larized area residents. Pacific Lumber is the

leading private employer in the county,

which also has a powerful environmentalist

Ms. Hill says she will come down only

which she calls Luna, stands.

A Birthday to Remember

quality of life strategy," Mr. Giuliani said at a news conference at City Hall. "This was a "highest court has upheld the constitutionality highly criticized program. It was one that

The ruling does not mean sex shops will disappear from New York City. The law designates isolated commercial and manufacturing areas across the city where sex shops will still be allowed. Stores that trade in pornographic videos or magazines can restructure their husinesses so that pomographic wares make up less than 40 percent of the inventory. Those shopkeepers can open up a back room that cannot be seen from the street, "I consider this a very hig victory for our filled with the same materials they sell now.

> Florida has backed down in a clasb with vendors over the Latin American tra-

> dition of selling coffee through open win-

dows. Health inspectors will not enforce a rule requiring coffee sellers to install

screens or sliding glass between the win-dow and the food area. Cuban coffee is

served through the sidewalk windows of

cafés, bakeries, grocery stores and gas sta-

tions throughout south Florida. State reg-

ulators had called the open windows a

health hazard. Bur residents of Miami,

which is more than 55 percent Hispanic,

complained. Even Mayor Alex Penelas

said a crackdown would have brought

The Los Angeles Board of Education

has approved a plan to equip school po-

licemen with 12-gauge shotguns. At a con-tentious board meeting, some members

said the weapons could be a valuable de-

terrent. Others expressed fears that students

could accidentally be shot, and said such

weapons seemed an exaggerated response at a time when violence has been declining

across the country. One board member,

Barbara Boudreaux, said: "If we think we live in a safe city, where officers don't need

The nation's growing prison popu-

lation has had one welcome, if unexpected,

consequence: More and more inmate

groups are working to help children in low-

income areas, by revamping old computers for their schools or holding cell-to-cell food

drives during holidays. At the Northern Nevada Correctional Center in the high

desert, an inmate group recycles aluminum

cans, flattens cardboard boxes and passes

the hal to raise money and buy reading

books for schoolchildren in a tough Reno

neighborhood. Many schools had turned

down the Nevada inmates' offer of help.

But at the Stead School in Reno, a hard-

scrahble area where some children sleep in the family car, the gifts were welcomed.

"These are total strangers," Suzy Dav-

enport, a second-grade teacher, told the Los

Angeles Times, "who care enough about

Brian Knowllon

guns, then we're living in an unreality."

Short Takes

"economic disaster."

· A fertility clinic has doubled the usual payment for human eggs, from \$2,500 to \$5,000, raising concerns that the quest for egg donors is becoming a hidding war. The move by the clinic at SL Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, New Jersey, has also prompted a debate over whether buman eggs are a gift to be given, or a commodity to be bought and sold.

 A navy ship was set to begin blasting high-volume sounds at humpback whales after a federal judge in Honolulu rejected environmentalists' arguments that the research program could harm the endangered animals. The navy hopes to study how the whales react and then use that data in an environmental impaci statement for a new sonar program designed to detect quiet submarines.

· A man convicted of killing two brothers in a drunken hrawl was executed by injection in Potosi, Missouri, after arguing that he had not received an adequate defense from an attorney who became his lover. The case of Reginald Powell, 29, drew national attention because of the affair between Mr. Powell and his original trial lawyer, Marianne Marxkors. (AP)

The 21,000 students in Wisconsin's third-biggest school district, in Racine, returned to classes with the teacher contract dispute that shut schools for two days still unresolved.

 A woman held for 22 hours, strip searched and forced to take laxatives by customs agents during a futile search for drugs has been awarded \$450,000 by a federal jury. Lawyers for Amanda Buritica, of Port Chester, New York, argued that agents at San Francisco International Airport had no reason to suspect her of being a drug couner. (AP)

James Herbert BURNHAM

passed away in Paris on February 23, 1998, following a long illness. A long-time resident of France, he was a Dartmouth graduate and francier of Progestim He is survived by his wife. Nancy Alburan, and his children, James Nical and Eliza. In keeping with his wishes, his burial will take place in Greensboro, Vermons.



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The New Hork Times.

www.iht.com

By Michael Richardson

Indonesia threatening to cast another pall of smoke-borne pollution over Southeast Asia, officials in the region appealed Wednesday for international aid to help prevent a recurrence of the 1997 crisis that is estimated to have cost more than \$1.3 billion in damage to health, disrupted industry and transport and lost tourism.

Environment ministers from the Association of South East Asian Nations, meeting in Koching, Malaysia, said that a recent outbreak of fires in the nearby Indonesian province of Kalimantan Timur on Borneo Island was a worrying development brought on by drough over much of the region caused by the El Nifio weather phenomenon.

Officials warned that Indonesia's economic crisis meant that Jakarta would have less money and fewer resources to fight the fires. They said that Canada, France, Germany and the United States had offered aid, but that more was needed.

The meeting noted that the fires in east Kalimantan are of serious concern because of the prolonged dry weather and welcomed any immediate interna-. tional assistance, especially in enhancing fire-fighting capacity." the ministers said in a joint statement issued at the end of their one-day meeting.

ASEAN is made up of Brunei, Burma, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.
Raging fires in Kalimantan and Sumatra last year threw a thick blanket of smoke over much of Southeast Asia from July to November that trapped transport and industrial furnes, creating an unpleasant and sometimes toxic smog.

The fires this year have so far caused only intermittent haze oo Borneo affecting Indooesian territory, two Malaysian states and Brunei, all of which share

But officials of nearby countries worry that when the prevailing winds change in April or May and blow northward, the smoke will be carried across densely populated Singapore, peninsular Malaysia and even as far as southern Thailand and the Philippines, affecting about 70 million people, as was the case last year.

Smoke and pollution in 1997 from the Indonesian fires — started by plantatioo companies and farmers to clear land cbeaply - caused more than \$1.3 hillion in damage, according to a study released Wednesday

The study was coodneted by the Singapore-based Economy and Envir-

Indonesian

Hold Protest

The Associated Press

JAKARTA - About 200 students and faculty members gath-

ered oo a state university campus

here Wednesday to shout slogans

against President Suharto, despite a

The police did oot intervene.

The demonstrators at the Uni-

versity of Indooesia said they were

protesting government cronyism

that they cootend bas aggravated

Chanting and raising their fists,

the protesters called for the ouster of President Suharto, 76, who is al-

most certain to win a seventh, fiveyear term in elections next month. In the city of Yogyakarta on Java,

meanwhile, bundreds of students

marched against Mr. Suharto to

protest his handling of the economic crisis. "Bring down Suharto,"

read a banner in the peaceful protest at the Gajah Mada University.

A special assembly, which will virtually guarantee Mr. Subarto's

re-election, will meet in early March to elect the oew president

and vice president, most likely B. J.

Habihie, the research and technol-

ogy minister who is an ardent eco-

The army, already jolted by riots over price increases outside Jakarta,

the capital, has said it will intervene

to stop any disruption of the vote.

Oo Monday, the armed forces enforced a 25-day ban on political rallies, arresting three women who were protesting on a main thor-

oughfare in the capital. The ban will be in effect until March 18, a week

Indoocsia, protesters sprayed black

paint over a billboard declaring the

university a "New Order" campus.

New Order refers to Mr. Suharto's

governing system, which views

ecocomic development as the na-

tion's priority and restricts many

political freedoms.

after the presidential election. At the rally at the University of

oomic nationalist.

the natioo's ecocomic crisis.

Students

ban on political rallies.

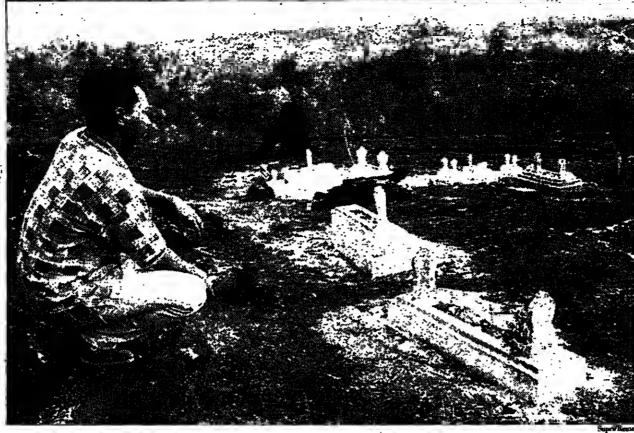
onment Program for Southeast Asia and the Indonesian office of the World Wide Fund for Nature. It used what the environmental groups said were very conservative calcolations. The study found that Indonesia bore

the bruot of the damage, with an estimated \$1 billion in losses, more than 90 percent of which was attributable to short-term health costs, such as respiratory and eye infections.

Malaysia suffered more than \$300 million in damage, mainly due to lost industrial production and tourism revenue. The haze cost Singapore more than \$60 million, chiefly from a drop in tour-ism as visitors sbunned the region, the

Indonesia could have used its lost resources to provide basic sanitation, water and sewage services for 40 million people, or about ooe-third of the rural poor," said David Glover, director of Economy and Environment. "Our work did oot take into account such costs as long-term damage to bealth, which may persist for decades and even exceed the short-term health costs, or losses directly attributable to fire, which are believed to be considerable, possibly equaling or exceeding those of the haze alooe."

"The fires in the forests are very dif-ficult to control," said the Indonesian en-vironment minister, Sarwono Kusumaatmadja, adding that 4,000 hectares (about 10,000 acres) of land were burning in Kalimantan Timur, an estimate environmentalists said was much too low.



An Indonesian farmer Wednesday at the charred remains of a cemetery near Samarinda, Kalimantan Timur.

Taiwan Economy Weathers Stormy Asian Seas

bubble in 1986 to

1990. We've just

emerged from the

trough.

By Edward A. Gargan

TAOYUAN, Taiwan - Every 12 seconds, a matte black computer monitor tube slides off a robotized assembly line here and is packed by human hands in Styrofoam cases for shipmeot around the world. Last year, the company, Changhwa Picture Tubes Ltd., shipped 20 millioo of them to computer makers from IBM and Philips to Tosbiba and

Yet despite such blue-blooded customers and the increasing efficiency of its operation, profits at Chunghwa, an unlisted subsidiary of one of Taiwan's to be near 6 percent largest cooglomerates, the Tatung Co., have cootinued to sink.

Chunghwa's quandary lies at the heart of the financial and ecocomic crisis that has eogulfed much of Asia.

Wildly excessive corporate borrowing in Sooth Korea, Japan, and much of Southeast Asia caused currencies to plummet, leading many companies to slash prices in an effort to export their way out of crisis. Competitors in Korea. in particular, have forced Chunghwa again and again to cut prices, sinking

strength of his own company and is still in very good shape: It's very very much. They has sheltered by the Taiwan economy, simple. The balance of trade has been posure to the region." which has been relatively calm throughout the typhooos afflicting the rest of the region.

Taiwan survived its own excesses earlier in the decade, analysts here and elsewhere in Asia say, emerging in bet-

ter shape than oeighbors. "I'm optimistic," said Kuo Weoment. "We're still enjoying the fruits of our past efforts."

Across the spectrum, from wary analysts to government economists, from bankers to manufacturers, the country is seen as running a solid economy hlessed with towering foreign exchange re-serves, now worth \$83 billioo; a healthy 1990. We bad a political confrootation although shrinking

trade surplus; relathis year. This is not to say

that Taiwan's earlier problems have allowed the country to

Jeffrey L.S. Koo, the chairman of nesses rather than the large conglomlargest Chinatrust Commercial Bank, sitting in Asia. favorable, around \$15 hillion. And Taiwan had its property hubble several

While some Taiwan banks remain construction cranes oo longer speckle flamingos. Taiwan's construction boom midst of economic change.

chung, an economist at the Chinese Eco-comic Institute, which does economic ated a bubble of overbuilding and over-she said. "The Koreans only wanted research for both industry and govern- lending that popped early in this de-

cycle," said Jeffrey Liang, the bead of

"We're in a different economic

research at the Nomura Securities Investment Advisory Co., a unit of the Japanese investment banking concern. with China in 1996 and growth sank to Taiwan had its own 5.7 perceot, We've

just emerged from the trough. But even more important is the difference betweeo Taiwan's economy and most of the others in

the region. "Taiwan pass through the current Asian crisis is more flexible than many of these other unscathed. countries," Mr. Liang added. "Taiwan 'Of course we are affected," said has focused on small and medium busiprivate bank, erates like South Korea and Southeast

his office graced by a moody, very hlue

And more than anywhere else in Asia. ors accounted for only 2.5 percent of Marc Chagall painting. In the elegant

Mr. Liang said, Taiwan's restrictive and manufacturing. But hy last year, the

And given the heaps of scorn that have oow fallen on the "crony capitalism" practiced in much of Asia, Diahann Brown, who oversees an investment burdened by excessive loans to builders, fund that concentrates oo Taiwan, is convinced that this politically isolated

market share at any cost. Bor Taiwan was much more conservative and the government is much less involved in foreign investment and in creating politically connected corporations than

Indeed, its isolatioo may prove a blessing in disguise. "Taiwan knows,"
Ms. Brown said, "that is things go wrong, oobody is going to help them.

Chiang Pin-kung, chairman of Taiwan's cabinet-level Conneil for Ecooomic Planning and Development who exercises authority over economic strategy, is scathing in his assessment of the policies followed elsewhere.

'A lot of money borrowed in Southeast Asia went oot into manufacturing but into the stock market and the property market," he argued. "The competitiveness of our economy is manofacturing.

In less than a decade, the structure of Taiwan's exports has changed dramatically. In 1990, according to the Finance Ministry, electronics and semicooduct-

But Lin Chen Yuan, who runs the company, is confident that be can ride out the storm, buoyed by the financial out the storm, buoyed by the financial out the storm, buoyed by the financial out the storm out the storm of the sto very much. They have very little ex- than the Finance Ministry's projectioo of 6.7 percent.

Still, he says he sees problems loom-

ing down the road. "Five years from now, when our curreot products are losing competitive-oess, we will be in trouble," he said. 'To maintain Taiwan's competitivethe skyline here like so many one-legged island nation will serve as a beacon in the ness, we need now technology, new products and new markets."

BRIEFLY

Communist Elite Gathers in China

BEIIING — China's Communist elite gathered behind closed doors Wednesday to start a three-day meeting, a week before the opening of the annual session of Parliament. party sources said.

The party elite, including about 200 members of the Central Committee and veteran revolutionaries, were to debate 1 Ith-hour changes to a proposal to streamline the government bureaucracy by spinning off corporations under ministries.

the sources said.
Officials reached by telephone declined to comment oo the meeting, but witnesses said security was right in and around the Jingxi guestbouse in western Beijing, where the sources said the meeting was under

Taleban Arrests Squatter Soldiers

German Oppo Set to Pick Cha

KABUL — Taleban troops swept through once-posb neighborhoods of the war-devastated Afghan capital Wednesday, arresting fellow soldiers who had illegally occupied homes after the militia took over Kabul.

The Taleban forced President Burhanoddin Rabbani and his military chief, Ahmed Shah Masoud, to flee Kabul in 1996, leaving behind scores of empty homes once occopied by his government ministers and commanders. Militia authorities took over some of the homes, while others were occupied by bands of armed soldiers.

The authorities said they found at least 30 soldiers Wednesday who had illegally occupied several homes. Several soldiers who resisted arrest were beaten, witnesses said. (AP)

Radicals Linked To Blaze in Tokyo

TOKYO - A fire broke out and destroyed part of the home of a former Transport Ministry official in Tokyo on Wednesday, and the police said they believed the blaze to be the work of radicals opposed to expansion of the international airport at Narita.

There were no reports of injuries, a police official said.

At the scene, police investigators found batteries, wires and a cootainer of fuel that might have been used to start the fire in the house of Hisao Takahashi, former chief of the ministry's civil aviation bureau, the official said. Mr. Takahashi is now a senior adviser to Japan Airport Terminal Co. at the airport, 65 kilometers (40 miles) east of

For the Record

The police used batons and tear gas and fired sbotguns into the air Wednesday to disperse about 500 protesters in Dhaka, Bangladesh, witnesses said. No arrests were reported, but an opposition leader said 12 people were injured. (Reuters)

INDONESIA: Hard-Hit Jakarta Looks On as 2 Other Nations in Asia Begin Political and Economic Recovery

Continued from Page 1

business favors to key support groops, including his family members and cronies.

Despite looming recession, a sharp rise in uoemployment, painfully high interest rates and other problems South Korea and Thailand, investors and creditors seem increasingly convinced both countries have representative governmeots that will root out crooy capitalism, reduce state interference in their economies, and overhaul their troubled banking systems.

After initial signs of rejection, South Korea and Thailand have swallowed the IMF's unpleasant medicine of government spending cuts, higher taxes and interest rates, and sweeping structural reforms of their economies. This in-cludes a clean-up of the financial system that permitted banks to lend rashly to companies for excessive property deing widespread hankruptcies and bad gram. debts.

"I believe we have demonstrated our readiness to 'bite the bullet' and tackle flirting with the idea of a fixed exchange our problems so as to restore the viability and dynamism of our economy," Chuan Leekpai, Thailand's prime minister, said Monday.

His government has impressed the markets by closing 56 of Thailand's 91 finance and securities companies that A truck full of police officers was parked near the campus gates and policemen and soldiers with walkie were judged to be insolvent, moving talkies watched from the street. resolutely to privatize or recapitalize banks and lifting currency trading re-strictions on the Thai baht. On Tuesday, But the protesters, many of them wearing bright yellow university jackets, did not leave the campus. it raised taxes on gasoline and luxury

mitmeot to IMF austerity conditions.

South Korea has also impressed the markets, analysts said, by implementing who will succeed Mr. Suharto as pres-reforms to open the way for greater labor ident after he is re-elected for a seventh flexibility, corporate restructuring and and, almost certainly, final five-year foreign ownership in its economy, while term next mooth, and whether the oext reaching agreement with international banks to turn a large part of the country's mitted to reforms than the present ooe. private sector debt from short-term loans Meanwhile, Thai and South Koreaninto more manageable longer-term foreign exchange reserves and curren-

Rescheduling Indonesia's \$74 billioo private debt mouotain is much more difficult because, unlike Sooth Korea where most of the money was borrowed by a small oumber of banks, there are several hundred Indonesian companies that have loans outstanding.

Yet, in the past few mooths, instead of soothing markets, Mr. Suharto has rattled confidence in Indonesia's recovery by approving a budget that defied IMF requirements. Then, after the rupiah plunged, the president personally signed a strengthened IMF reform pro-

Within weeks, before the program had a reasonable chance to work, be was figure from South Korea's repressive rate under a currency board system to force op the value of the rupiah, partly to save well-connected companies, includ-ing those belonging to his family and friends, from going bust, analysts said. Reflecting a view that is widely beld

in financial markets, the IMF's Asia-Pacific director, Hubert Neiss, said recently that Thailand had "turned the corner, aloog with Korea."
Indonesia, he added, "is still in the

intensive care unit. We will have to wait until the political situation gets clearer to

be able to predict a full recovery."

That situation includes doubts about government will be more, or less, com-

Meanwhile, Thai and South Koreancies have strengtheoed as a result of the revival in market confidence. By contrast, Indooesia was forced last

month to declare a de facto freeze on repayment of overseas loans hy its private companies because the Indonesian rupiab had fallen much further in value against the dollar than any other Asian currency. It is down by nearly 75 percent against the dollar, compared

with 49 perceot for the Korean woo and 41 percent for the Thai baht.

The contrast was underscored Tuesday in Washingtoo when Treasury Secretary Robert Ruhin said: "I think that in Korea and Thailand, governments bave worked very well toward implementing the IMF programs. I think they are oo a very constructive path. In Indooesia, you obviously have a somewhat difficult

At the same time, the White House announced that President Bill Clinton had asked former Vice President Walter Moodale to travel to Indonesia this weekend, his second special envoy to see Mr. Suharto in a month. Mr. Robin described Mr. Mondale's visit as an ef-Suharto oo Indooesia's reform efforts.

Mr. Moodale's trip, officials told The New York Times, will chiefly deliver a political message: that Mr. Suharto must choose his next cabinet carefully, avoiding longtime cronies, and create an economic team that the markets will perceive as willing to work with the IMF

program.
"The first lesson from the Asian crisis is that a government that is not answerable to its people will oot be likely to have open markets or the institutions required to impose discipline to over-come a financial crisis," said Martin Lee, chairman of the Democratic Party of Hong Kong. "It is important for the West to seek not only economic restructuring from Asia's teetering autofort to re-establish a dialogue with Mr. cratic regimes, but sobstantial political reform as well."

KOREA: Legislators Immediately Rebuff Kim on Prime Minister

Continued from Page 1

past and lacks the experience to revive

rangement and that the nominadon of perceot. Kim Joog Pil as prime minister is thus the voters' will. They say that Kim Jong ister has also forced a postponement in

Pil will oot withdraw his candidacy and the announcement of the cabinet, which that they will try to get enough defectors from the opposition to win approval. "I sincerely hope that there will be

"It's improper to ram through the appointment of Kim Jong Pil as prime minister," Kim Dae appointment of Kim Jong Pil as prime minister," Kim Dae Jung told dinner guests Wednesday. Reminister, "Maeng Hyung Kyu, a party spokesman, said Wednesday, "We urge also bope that I will receive cooperation the composition of t the government to select a wise figure so that I can fulfill the tasks of the

who will help the nation overcome its presidency."

The prospect of a political battle semt the Seonl stock market tumbling, with gue that the voters knew about the ar- the composite index closing down 4.5

is nominally chosen by the prime min-ister. The prime minister's job has far less weight than the president's, but if the president dies, the prime minister takes over — a significant consideration because President Kim is 74 years old

and beginning a five-year term.

Kim Jong Pil is also an important figure because under his deal with President Kim, South Korea is supposed to switch by the end of next year to a parliamentary system, with Kim Jong Pil running the country as head of government. But there are a few loopholes in the agreement, and many doubt that it will be put into effect.

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Communist Elite Gathers in China

BEUING—China's Consective gathered behind closely.
Wednesday to start a they of the annual session of pages sources said.

The party eite, including a 200 members of the County and revenue. mines and veteran revolution were to debate 11th-hour the proposal to streamline the burganciacy by off corporations under make

Officials reached by tells declined to comment on the ing, but witnesses said seems tight in and around the linguistic in western Beijing, what house in western Beiling, while the meeting with sources said the meeting water

Taleban Arrests Squatter Soldien

KABUL — Taleban mogras

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when had illegally occurred.

Burhanuddin Rahbani and be Hary chief, Ahmed Shah Mag. fice Kabul in 1996, leaving scores of empty homes on; cupied by his government meies took over some of the le while others were occupaburnes of armed soldiers.

The authorities said they in: and a soldiers Wednesday itaccepted several le Several soldiers who resisted were betten, witnesses said .

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Radicals Linked To Blaze in Toky

TOKYO - A fire broke at destroyed part of the home; tormer Transport Ministry & in Tray on Wednesday, zit milities said they believed their Lafontaine, political analysts say. The Social Democratic Party bad to be the work of radicals oper expansion of the internations gert at Natital

That a viete no reports of exa police official said.

At the scene, police invent pound hamenes, wires and a there are truck that raight hash the fire in the he-House Taxahashi, former ch. size them stry is an illaviation but Le afficial said Mr Takahash Termina Co at the airport. Strategies and malest cast.

For the Record

The police used batons are mas atted shotguns moss Wednesday to disperse the Dala Banda Williams said No arrests with gerted, but an opposition leading 12 perput were injured. Ille

and Economic Record,

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MKim on Prime Mind

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EUROPE

Defector Details Soviet Germ Project Dwarfing U.S. Program, Moscow Made Tons of Anthrax Bacteria

By Tim Weiner New York Times Service

the former Soviet biological weapons program says that Moscow's Cold War plans for World War III included prebacteria and scores of tons of smallpox interview Wednesday night. and plague viruses.

now known as Ken Alibek, was secondin-command of a branch of the Soviet program and defected in 1992. He said in an interview Tuesday that these bacteria and viruses could have been mounted on intercontinental ballistic missile warheads on several days' notice in the early

Dr. Alibek, a 47-year-old native of Kazakhstan, said the Russian military was still running a hiological weapons program in 1991, a year after Mikhail Gorbachev ordered it halted.

to ehallenge Chancellor Helmut Kohl in campaign.

cision about the candidate for chancellor coming to an end."

called a special session of its manage- statement. "The time for a change of

Lafontaine,

since World War II.

Franz Muentefering, the party general

party's chairman, Oskar Lafontaine, had

is on the agenda," he said.
The center-left Social Democrats.

aiming to put and end to Mr. Kohi's 16-

year grip on power, face a choice be-tween Mr. Lafontaine and Gerhard

Schroeder, the premier of Lower Saxony

The decision depends largely on Mr.

Schroeder's performance in state elec-

tions Sunday. A strong showing could

create unstoppable momentum for Mr.

Schroeder, a pro-business moderate. A

disappointing result would leave the

field clear for the more left-leaning Mr.

originally planned to wait two weeks

ing. But buge media attention has fo- Passau.

September's general election.

Dr. Alibek, who said he had decided Dr. Alibek, who said he had decided to speak publicly for the first time to cow's Cold War biological-weapons fight the spread of biological weapons program is continuing under the guise of WASHINGTON — A defector from and to seek absolution for making them, was introduced to The New York Times

Dr. Alibek, who works as a private The defector, Kanatjan Alibekov, consultant, has written a highly classified study of the Soviet biological ment. Now he is offering a unique public description of a weapons program that was for decades one of Moscow's deepest secrets. Considered by U.S. intelligence officials to be credible about the and structure of the Soviet biological weapons program from 1975 to 1991 -Dr. Alibek is thought to be less reliable on political and military issues he knew

The SPD is preparing itself con-

199g." Mr. Muentefering said in his

secondhand.

defensive research in Russia. The offensive-weapons program was officially by producers of the ABC News program canceled by President Gorbachev in PrimeTime Live," which interviewed 1990, officially canceled again by Presparing "hundreds of tons" of anthrax him last month and was to broadcast the ident Boris Yeltsin in 1992, and remains officially defunct today. Nevertheless, Dr. Alibek said, "they continue to do research to develop new

biological agents; they conduct research weapons program for the U.S. govern- and explain it as being for defensive This question of whether Russia persists in the research and development of

biological weapons is bothy debated in the U.S. intelligence community. Many subjects he knows firsthand — the size analysts think some elements of the old Soviet program are continuing, but are far from certain that these include the development of offensive weapons.

"We can say Russia continues re-search in this area to maintain its military biological potential," Dr. Alibek said.
"They keep safe their personnel, their scientific knowledge. And they still bave production capability."

The American biological-weapons **German Opposition Party**

program was canceled by President Richard Nixon nearly 30 years ago. The United States continues to do research on programs to defend itself against biological attack, as Russia says it now

BONN — Germany's opposition Social Democrats unexpectedly announced Wednesday that they would But Dr. Alibek said the Soviets never believed that the American biologicalweapons program had ended. Through the 1970s and the 1980s, they pursued decide next Monday on their candidate over who should spearhead its election their own program in a secret arms race against a perceived threat.

Dr. Alibek, a medical doctor who held the rank of colonel in the Soviet military, Franz Muentefering, the party general sistently and step by step for the immanager, said in a statement that the portant election decision in September left the former Soviet Union in 1992.

After he arrived in the United States, he was debriefed for the Central Intelligence Agency by Bill Patrick, who helped run the United States' biologicalment committee for Monday. "The de- policies has arrived. The Kohl era is The party's management committee weapons prigram from 1948 to 1969.

consists of more than 40 top party of-ficials. Its meetings are chaired by Mr. Mr. Patrick said he learned in his talks with Dr. Alibek that the Soviet program paralleled ours very closely" in terms Mr. Kobl's foes used Ash Wednesof military technology, though "it took day, a traditional day for political rallies in Bavaria, to assail him for presiding then many, many years to get past us with respect to biological agents, delivery systems and munitions.

over the nation's worst unemployment By 1989, he and Dr. Alibek said in In state elections Scpt. 13, two weeks separate interviews, the Soviet program before Mr. Kohl seeks re-election in the dwarfed the United States effort. "If we produced a pound of anything they produced a hundred to five hundred." Mr. federal voie, his Bavaria-based coalition partner, the Christian Social Union, is fighting to keep its absolute majority in Patrick said.

But in late 1989, Dr. Alibek said, there the state legislature. "Whoever wants lower taxes must came "a time of severe pressure from vote for us," Finance Minister Theo the United States and Great Britain to after the Lower Saxony poll before holding the management committee meeting the management committe (Reuters, AP) doubt that led to his defection.

Georgia Kidnappers Free Last 3 Hostages

DZHIKHASKARI, Georgia — Kid-nappers freed their three remaining United Nations hostages Wednesday as talks on Georgia's political future began with President Eduard Shevard-

Charkviani, Mr. Shevard-Gea nadze's foreign policy adviser, said that all hostages were freed by Wednesday afternoon but that the kidnappers' leader bad escaped. Russian news reports said three of the hostage-takers surrendered.

The weeklong siege ended as promised after a representative of the kidnappers began negotiations with Mr. Shevardnadze. The bostage-takers, wbo are followers of a previous Georgian president, had issued a broad array of demands, but had said they would give up if Mr. Shevardnadze would agree to talk to them.

A Shevardnadze spokesman said the talks could be seen as the start of a political dialogue with supporters of former President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who was deposed in a coup in 1992 and died two years later.

The kidnappers seized four UN military observers on Feb. 19 and barricaded themselves in a house in this western village. Their demands included the release of seven jailed com-rades and the talks with Mr. Shevardnadze. Details of the discussions were not immediately released.

Hijacker of Airliner In Turkey Gives Up

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey — The seizure of a Turkish Airlines plane ended early Wednesday when the lone hijacker surrendered, the state-run Anatolian press agency said.

Officials and witnesses said the incident began late Tuesday when the man seized control of a domestic Turkish Airlines flight from Adana to Ankara and diverted it to southeastern

The hijacker, a man in bis 30s, claimed to have hidden a bomb inside a teddy bear he was carrying and demanded to be flown to Iran.

He later released 20 of the 63 passengers and demanded another plane to carry him and several crew members to Iran, officials said.

Anatolian quoted a government official as saying the hijacking did not appear to have been carried out on behalf of any group.



Major Marten Molgard of Sweden heading for freedom with two other UN officials after their release Wednesday by Georgian kidnappers.

Belgium Guards Tackle Cash Pileup

BRIEFLY

BRUSSELS — Security guards re-turned to work Wednesday, ending a six-week strike for better protection on armored cars that left many cash machines empty and caused cash to ptle up in shops and banks.

On their first day back on the job ied by six heavily armed policemen per convoy — shuttled cash to and from 150 locations across Belgium, mostly

banks, shops and supermarkets. much cash had piled up during the the Middle East and the Gulf, the min-strike that police would accompany istry sources said. money transports between major cities for several days.

Security guards began a strike for more safety measures on Jan. 12 after a highway robbery in which two col-leagues were killed. During the Christmas holidays one guard was gunned down on a sidewalk outside a Brussels shopping mall.

Separately, jail guards in Belgium's French-speaking southern half ended a (Reuters) one-month strike when the government the evolution in Iran."

satisfied their demand for a 36-hour workweek without loss of pay. (AP)

Dini Sets Dates For Trip to Tehran

ROME - Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini will visit Iran on Monday and Tuesday, senior Foreign Ministry sources said Wednesday. It will be the after a deal between unions and em- first trip in Iran by an EU foreign ployers on increased security and other minister since the European bloc lifted matters, security guards - accompan- its ban on high-level contacts with the Islamic republic.

Mr. Dini accepted an invitation from the Iranian foreign minister, Kamal Kharrazi, to discuss relations between A state police spokeswoman said so the two countries and the situation in

The EU's decision to lift its ban on contacts is part of an effort by the bloc to repair strained relations with Tehran.

The ban on high-level contacts was imposed after a German coun ruled in April that Iranian leaders ordered the 1992 killing of three Kurdish dissidents in a Berlin restaurant.

The Foreign Ministry sources expressed satisfaction with the EU's decision, which they said "responds to



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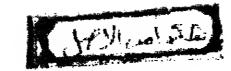
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Mexico

Assails U.S. her Aid Proposal

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INTERNATIONAL

Mexico City's Mayor Shines a Light in the Dark Files of Corruption

By Molly Moore

MEXICO CITY - Behold the inheritance bequeathed to the first elected mayor of this mammoth metropolis in modern history: Hundreds of computers wiped clean of all data, a payroll on which one of every 10 paid employees never showed up for work and a property office that could not account for almost half the city-owned buildings and real estate.

And that was just for starters. In the three months since Cuauhtemoc Cardenas and his opposition party assumed control of the city administration from ruling-party appointees who had run it for nearly seven decades, officials have excavated levels of corruption so tually unheard-of in Mexico three years pervasive that one of the mayor's cahinet ago, newly elected opposition mayors, members described the government as one big, hlack enterprise."

The capital's "successive governments promoted and legitimized corrup-

Continued from Page 1

were made public Tuesday. "This study has hurst another myth," said William

Schmidt, an educational statistician from

Michigan State University who coor-

dinated the American portion of the

study. "Our best students in mathematics

and science are simply not world class.

Even the very small percentage of stn-

dents taking advanced placement courses

The results seemed particularly jarring

given the dominance of the United States

in a global economy hased increasingly

on information and technology.

The data come from the Third In-

ternational Mathematics and Science

Study, which in the spring of 1995 tested

samplings of students in their fourth,

eighth and last year of school. More than

40 countries participated in the eighth-

year portion and about half that number

on each of the other two sections. The

Asian nations, usually superior per-

formers, did not take part in the high

The results for fourth-year students,

made public last June, showed the

United States to be above the inter-

national average and were hailed as ev-

idence that the attection of recent years

to improving American schools was

cause Americans dipped below the in-

though they scored above it in science.

seniors, are heing greeted with shock and

dismay by large numbers of educators.

system, and it is our generation's responsibility to fix it." Mr. Clintoo said.

"You cannot blame the schoolchildren. There is no excuse for this."

But the latest results, for high school

There is something wroog with the

ternational average in mathematics al- scieoce teachers.

school portion.

starting to pay off.

are not among the world's best."

co sa

for the relations between officials and scandals are the daily fodder of head-citizens," said Mr. Cardenas, a member lines in the national and local press.

Villarreal, who has since been appointed employees, many civil servants fear able to locate, 4,000 are virtually un-federal secretary of tourism, has said speaking out, and many others have no usable without extensive repairs and of the left-of-center Party of the Democratic Revolution, who campaigned on promises to clean up city hall.

and elsewhere in Mexico begin to break of accountability. the grip of the ruling Institutional Revolunonary Party, Mexico's government is undergoing a new revolution: the hirth of this democracy's first independent system of checks and balances.

Using legal weapons that were virgovernors and members of Congress are launching investigations and audits of government corruption and ineptness. No longer just the subject of speculation tion as a 'normal' way of life and work, and rumors that were swept under the and implemented it as the unwritten norm carpet of one-party rule, government

Nations with

Nations with

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scores lower than

Falling Behind in Math and Science

scored significantly lower than students in other countries."

Netherlands

Swednn

Danmark

Iceland

Norway

Uthuania

Cyprus

Source: Third International Mathematics and Science Study

demic standards and far-better-prepared

Conservative lawmakers have op-

posed national tests - standard practice

in some countries — on grounds that they

would represent a centralization of edu-

cation, which they view as more properly

tional study, in the 1960s, '70s and '80s,

Education Secretary Richard Riley ican high schoolers, they were largely deputy director of the study. "Around the said the results confirmed what the addiscounted because of perceived social world, everybody watches television."

a local and parent-controlled endeavor. While earlier versions of the interna-

South Africa

finternational average is the average of all participating countries.

Czech Republic

United States

Switzerland

A new study of high school seniors in 23 countries shows U.S. students

ADVANCED MATH

Switzarland

Denmark

Cyprus

Uthuania

Australia

Greece

Canada

Slovenia

Germany

Czech Rapublic

United States

Italy

*Rankings within groups may not be reliable due to variance in statistical sampling

produced equally poor results for Amer- said Ina Mullin of Boston College, co-

France

Russia

must pay bribes to obtain a water or need. Democracy is not only free and telephone hookup, a driver's license or fair elections. We have reached the movirtually any other government service.

But as opposition leaders in the capital and institutions that will sustain a culture

> The emerging view of the seamy side of Mexico City's government — which administers to 8.5 million residents inside the city limits of the federal district -- has rprised even critics of the ruling party.

> The city prosecutor, Samuel del Villar, estimated that as much as 40 perceot of the city's \$4.5 billion in annual revenue is stolen by criminal organizations within the city government, dishonest employees and inefficiency. "We are just looking at the tip of the iceberg," Mr. del Villar said, "We don't know how hig it is."

A former PRI mayor, Oscar Espinosa

Norway

Swedan

Russia

Denmark

Slovania

Germany

Australia

Cyprus

Latvia

Greece

Canada

Franca

Austria

Switzerland

Czech Rapublic

"What we are having now is full little publicly about the allegations. But exposure," said Sergio Aguayo, pres-ident of Civic Alliance, a private, good-whom he permitted to he interviewed on whom he permitted to he interviewed on Allegations of corruptioo are hardly government advocacy group. "That is the condition that his name not be used, new in a city where citizens routinely an important aspect of the change we said: "It is false that the problem is of the said: "It is false that the problem is of the dimensions they said it is. It is impossible. We systematically fought corruption. Some of the cases they are presenting now were started during our lministration.

> Mr. Cardenas and his senior officials concede that it will be difficult to prove many of their allegations in court because so many records from previous administrations have been destroyed or are in disarray. In addition, the city

interest in changing a system that has 2,000 are in such poor condition that been used to supplement their meager they should be sold as junk — even though millions of dollars in fake bills

government. Examples alleged by Cardenas administration officials include:

 Dozens of city offices were stripped of computers, telephones, furniture and files when the previous administration left office. Secretary of the Government Rosario Robles and Social Development Secretary Clara Jusidman both said their offices were bare.

workers' union is fiercely protective of Mr. Cardenas's administration has been cords don't exist.

speaking out, and many others have no usable without extensive repairs and Current administration officials said were submitted to the city for vehicle they had found corruption and misuse of maintenance. Hundreds more, particupublic funds at every level of the city larly late-model autos, simply disappeared in the final months of the previous administration.

 Criminal organizations with sources working in the city's data processing and computing offices continue to electronically steal city funds and divert them to private bank accounts.

 City officials say they cannot identify 22,000 of the city's estimated 50,000 • Of the 16,000 city-owned vehicles buildings and properties because the re-

IRAQ: U.S. Reports Reassurances From Allies if Saddam Reneges

Continued from Page 1

accord would leave the United States

in a box. DUMB: International Science Test Results Dismay U.S. Educators He said Wednesday that it was tantamount to huying "peace at any

> 'It is always possible to get a deal if you give enough away," he said. "The deal negotiated by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan with Iraq does not adequately address the threat posed by Saddam Hussein.

The Senate has no role in ratifying the accord. But Mr. Lon's scathing criticism from the floor of the Senate appeared likely to embolden some other congressional critics who view the agreement as

an ill-advised acquiescence to a man deeply mistrusted by many Americans, Instead of standing on principle." Mr. Lott said of Mr. Annan's efforts, "he

sat with the unprincipled and gave him what he wanted." In so doing, Mr. Lott added, Mr. Annan "has greatly harmed the credibility of the United Nations.' In New York, where Britain is proposing the UN resolution warning Iraq, the U.S. delegate to the UN, Bill Richardson, said that the administration

favored a resolution making it clear that Iraqi noncompliance could prompt air strikes by U.S. and allied forces. "We want to find a way to certify that if Iraq violates the agreement, there are going to be very serious consequences,"

Mr. Richardson said. Mr. Lott said he was troubled by a sense that Mr. Annan had dictated a

solution to the crisis to Washington. 'The secretary-general is calling the shots," Mr. Lott said. "The United States is not."

The eighth-year results, issued seven ministration has been saying; that the months earlier, had raised concern becountry needs clearer and firmer aca-United States and other countries. The He added: "We must he clear. Wc U.S. sample, it was argued, included more immigrants and members of minority

cannot afford peace at any price."

The American public, which has had little love for Mr. Saddam since his forces invaded Kuwait in 1990, has been divided on the question of whether to begin a military attack against Iraq for its

should he the target of an attack; others sancoons on Iraq are ended, according to support diplomacy and warmly applauded Mr. Annan's efforts. Mr. Lou's speech, which came a day

after administration officials briefed members of Congress about the agreement, drew a tart response from the death of Americans — civilian and mil-Democratic leader in the Senate, Tom itary — and their allies.

Continued from Page 1

visers moved from a desire to hit President Saddam Hussein of Iraq with the

biggest military strike of the Clinton pres-

difficult to mount such an operation with-

the U.S. representative to the United

Nations, strongly opposed Mr. Annan's

mission, arguing that the chief UN dip-lomat was too likely to give in to Iraqi

demands and that an agreement with Mr.

Defense Secretary William Cohen.

The discussions were so far-reaching

who for months had argued passionately

about the threat of chemical and bio-

that at one point Vice President Al Gore suggested that the administration con-

sider designating Mr. Saddam a war

was a potential opportunity and not a

trap. Together, the two aides developed

president made clear that the adminis-

tration would support Mr. Annan's trip

the United States not support it and then

have military action," a top White House official quoted Mr. Clinton as saying.

"The president said: 'Look, I don't want him negotiating. It's our military that is

clear consensus among the international

community, a consensus on his instruc-

nions before he goes to Baghdad.' "Mr.

Clinton reportedly added, "I want a writ-

olution approved at the end of the Gulf

War gave them unlimited access to Iraq

with the aim of destroying its weapons of

Yevgeni Primakov of Russia hrokered a

ten statement with a signature."

During a White House meeting, the

but only to do Washington's bidding.

'You can't have Kofi going there and

the U.S. red lines for the mission.

Saddam could not he trusted.

logical weapons, remained wary.

out much more international support.

idency to the conclusion that it would be

As the crisis grew, Bill Richardson,

Mr. Daschle said that some details of the accord remained unclear, notably whether weapons inspectors will have full access to sites they want to visit, as President Bill Clinton said Monday.

But Mr. Daschle added, "If ever there was a time for us to present a unified

from to Iraq, this ought to be it."

Most criticism of the accord has come from Republicans, including several who have called for a substantial military attack by U.S.-led forces in the Gulf region. Mr. Clinton has made it clear that the United States will maintain a powerful military presence there until it is

satisfied with Iraqi compliance.

Daschle of South Dakota. "I don't know what ourpose it serves by attacking one another at this point," he said. would allow lraq the influence over the composition of UN inspection teams that Mr. Saddam had long sought.

"After years of denying that Saddam Hussein had any right to determine the scope of inspections or the makeup of inspeccion teams, this agreement codifies his ability to do both," the majority leader said.

The agreement calls for some diplomats from the five permanent Security Council members to accompany inspectors to eight 'presidential sites' that Iraq previously had declared off-limits. This, Mr. Lott, contended, was "the beginning of the unraveling of the inspection process."

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said Tuesday that there were amhiguives Mr. Lon asserted that the agreement on some of the inspection procedures.

Attacks on Americans

CLA Takes Islamic Threats 'Quite Seriously'

By Walter Pincus Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Calls by Islamic militants for attacks on U.S. citizens, installations and allies around the world "are heing taken quite seriously," according to a senior American intelli-gence official.

Although the calls were issued two weeks ago and linked to a threatened U.S. attack on Iraq, they "call for attacks to continue until U.S. forces 'retreat' from Saudi Arabia and Jerusalem," according to a memo prepared by the CIA Counterterrorist Center and released Tuesday by Senator Jon Kyl, Republican

of Arizona. The calls - which intelligence officials consider to he official religious decrees called fatwas — came from a coalition of Islamic religious groups in to Senator Kyl said. And although both

ion polls, believe Mr. Saddam himself tacks to continue until UN economic memo said. the CIA memo. The fatwa issued by a terrorist organization in Afghanistan headed by Usamaihn Ladin calls for the liberation of Muslim holy places in Saudi Arabia and Israel as well as the

Farwas usually are rulings issued by high spiritual leaders who call on the faithful to carry them out as sacred duty. In 1989, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, then the religious leader of Iran, issued a fatwa calling for the death of the author Salman Rushdie for his book "The Satanic Verses.

Although the Muslim clerics issuing these rulings are not named, the London group referred to religious authorities in Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine, the memo said. Some U.S. analysts have questioned whether the groups have authority to issue such fatwas, but they still must be considered valid, one intelligence official said yesterday.

The fatwas issued two weeks ago "are the first from these groups that explicitly justify attacks on American civilians anywhere in the world," the CIA memo refusal of full access to UN weapons inspectors.

London and a terrorist financier in Afgroups have suggested that civilians are shanistan.

Many Americans, according to opin—

The London group called for the atruling sanctifying such attacks," the

> Mr. Ibn Ladin, a wealthy Saudi businessman who has repeatedly voiced threats to the U.S. presence in the Gulf, has been accused of financing several plots. His fatwa accuses the United States of "eagerness to destroy Iraq" and "fragment the states of the region" to guarantee Israel's survival.

CLINTON: Legal Conflict With Starr Heats Up to 'Danger' Level

Continued from Page 1

remain murky about what precisely Mr. Clinton's allies did to spread derogatory information to reporters and what exactly led to Mr. Starr's extraordinary move to open an obstruction invesogation - even if the Clinton team had been peddling negative stories about members of the prosecutor's team.
Lawyers said that it would be common

practice for the Clinton team to investigate the professional backgrounds of Mr. Starr's staff. But they said it would be highly unusual - "bizarre," said Bruce Yannett, a former federal prosecutor - for defense lawyers to scrutinize the private lives of prosecutors. The White House has denied that it

has done any such thing, while Mr. Starr's spokeswoman has said the independent counsel's office has been deluged with media calls asking about both their-houses stance of many lawyers:

the professional and personal lives of at

least two prosecutors. "They look desperate if they engage in this stuff," said Gerard Lynch, a Columbia University law professor. At the same time, legal experts said it was difficult to imagine Mr. Starr bringing a federal obstruction of justice case against Mr. Clinton or his partisans for what appears to he an exercise of their

First Amendment rights.
"I'm stupefied," said Robert Luskin, a criminal defense lawyer and a former federal prosecutor. "What incredible bad judgment. I don't think you use the grand jury authority to harass people who are criocizing you." He added, "If the idea is that some-

how you can't accuse the prosecutor of being an unscrupulous dog without trying to obstruct justice, that's crazy."

Mr. Gillers described the pox-on-both-

"If the Clinton camp concludes these prosecutors are overzealous and have lost objectivity and then goes out and gathers evidence of equivalent excess in prior matters, that's within the rules of war. "I do have a problem, however, if

groups. This time, officials say the dif-

ferences have narrowed, and those that

there were no clear or simple expla-

nations for the low level of American performance. "It is not class size or

homework or social life or television,'

Those who carried out the study said

remain were statistically accounted for.

they were to reveal personal information about a particular prosecutor, say a messy divorce or a child custody battle. I think that is beyond the pale and un-becoming the White House."

But Mr. Gillers also said that although

he previously thought Mr. Starr was justified in aggressive tactics because of the intransigence he has confronted in dealing with the White House, the Blumenthal subpoena appeared to be over the edge.

"I cannot conceive," he said, "of a legitimate law enforcement purpose in serving the subpoena. I can conceive of a vindictive purpose, and I can conceive that it may reflect that Starr has succumbed to being personal about this." What Starr has done is to provide the

country with Exhibit A to the president's claim that Starr is out to get him," he The Blumenthal and Lenzner sub-

poenas are not the only signs that Mr. Starr is intent upon pursuing the pos-sibility of obstruction. He also sub-poenzed Lanny Breuer, a White House lawyer who is a member of the president's legal defense team since the independent counsel began his investiga-tion of whether Mr. Clinton had sex with Monica Lewinsky, a former intern, and then urged her to lie about it under oath. Mr. Starr had earlier subpoenaed a White House aide, Robert Weiner, to ask whether the White House had encouraged him to press a Maryland prosecutor to investigate the legality of Linda Tripp's taping of telephone calls with Ms. Lewinsky. Mr. Weiner complained that Mr. Starr was on a 'switch hunt.'

3 Fatalities in '97

The Associated Press

deadliest years on record.

The National Transportation Safety Board said three people, only two of them passengers, died in jor American air carriers in 1996.

corded 46 fatalities last year, up from 14 in 1996. There were 40 deaths on POLICY: A Wary White House Set Terms for Annan's Iraq Trip

access to certain presidential sites. The Pentagon was ready to act. The plan was to launch a military strike against Iraq before Ramadan, the Muslim holy month, began at the end of December. Mr. Clinton also seemed ready for military action, an official said.

Not everybody in the administration was prepared to act that quickly, as it had not consulted extensively with the Congress or lined np support among the allies. Nor had it won over the public.

According to the Pentagon, the next opportunity to strike would come after amadan ended at the end of January. By late January, Mr. Clinton had signed off on a military plan that could be carried out should diplomacy fail. But in Moscow and Paris, there was no enthu-

siasm for a military strike. The Russians

and the French worked hard — separately and together — to head off a U.S. strike. criminal, a proposal that prompted a debate on its risks and merits. Ultimately, Mrs. Albright and Samuel A French official paraphrased Pres-Berger, the national security adviser, ideol Jacques Chirac of France as telling told Mr. Clinton that Mr. Annan's trip President Boris Yeltsin of Russia in a phone conversation: "You know, Boris, you and I are trying to avoid a war over there. Bill wants to strike. Maybe you

and I have a role to play."

By early February, there was strong international pressure for sending Mr. Annan to Baghdad, but in a meeting with Security Council representatives from France, Russia, Britain and China on Feb. 11, Mr. Richardson said he could not see the value of a mission to Baghdad by Mr.

Annan, participants in the meeting said. It did not seem to matter to him that getting the inspectors back in. I want a Mr. Annan was in the room. By the time Mrs. Albright met Mr. Annan four days later, the U.S. position

had changed.

She — along with Mr. Berger — knew that if the United States was the Iraq had been testing the will of the lone boldout on an Annan mission it were driven in government limousines to inspectors since a Security Council reswould appear isolated Washington could not stop Mr. Annan from going to Baghdad on his own authority.

Sitting in Mr. Annan's town house over lunch, Mrs. Albright laid out the red mass destruction.

But the debate over the inspections lines, insisting that the UN inspectors reached a critical point in November have "operational control" over all inwhen Mr. Cohen sounded the alarm over vestigations of suspected biological and chemical weapons sites in Iraq. They Iraq's suspected cache of chemical and would also have to have unrestricted biological weapons. The defense secretary was not counting on diplomacy to access to all sites and serve as the sole judge of Iraqi compliance. solve the problem. After Foreign Minister

If Mr. Annan did reach an agreement with Mr. Saddam, she added, the United

December, Baghdad told Richard But-ler, the chairman of the UN Special Commission, that it planned to restrict to the French idea for the appointment of sites he limited; the United States agreed to the French idea for the appointment of diplomatic "chaperones" for the inspectors and the postponement of air strikes.

But much to Washington's dismay, the council could oot agree on written instructions for Mr. Annan. Before the secretary-general left, Sir John Weston, the chief British representative, read him words of "advice" based oo what he said was "a level of agreement" - that met the U.S. requirements. From the moment Mr. Annan arrived

Friday in Baghdad, he knew the Iraqis were serious about cutting a deal, his aides said. Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz insisted that the two talk privately that evening instead of waiting until their first scheduled meeting in the morning. It was the beginning of a dozen hours of meetings with Mr. Aziz. By the next morning, Mr. Annan realized how difficult the negotiations would he.

He presented Mr. Aziz with the outline of an agreement that was based loosely on the advice he had received from the five permanent members of the Security Council. Mr. Aziz did not seem happy.

Mr. Aziz accused the inspectors being too intrusive, a participant in the meeting said, saying they wanted to wander Mr. Saddam's residences and rifle through his belongings, something he said no sovereign leader could tolerate.

Mr. Annan dismissed much of what Mr. Aziz said as posturing for his colleagues, and from then on, the two men met one-on-one. But they could not agree on how intrusive inspections of the presidential sites would be. Mr. Aziz insisted that inspection of those sites be conducted only once and last only 60 days. When the meetings broke up at 2 A.M. there was oo agreement.

The issne was still unresolved by noon Sunday, when Mr. Annan and three aides the Republican Palace, Mr. Saddam's primary residence oo the banks of the Tigris River and, ironically, one of the buildings off-limits to inspectors. There Mr. Saddam greeted his guests warmly.

Mr. Annan was described as respectful of Mr. Saddam, calling him a leader who needed to take a bold step for peace.

After three hours of talks that focused not only on the inspections but on Mr. Saddam's insistence on a deadline for lifting economic sanctions against Iraq. they struck a deal allowing inspectors immediate and unconditional access States wanted it in writing. throughout the country. It also provides for diplomatic chaperones on inspecting It took only a few weeks. Io early Council, the Russians gave up their de- the eight presidential sites.

BRIEFLY

Over Aid Proposal MEXICO CITY — Fidel Castro greeted his election to a fifth term as the president of Cuban by denouncing

Castro Assails U.S.

a new U.S. aid proposal. Cuba's new Parliament, elected in lamary, opened its five-year term Tuesday by re-electing Mr. Castro, 71, and other top members of the cabinet. Mr. Castro was the only candidate for president. In a seven-hour speech after his election, he denounced a proposal before the U.S. Congress that would permit American aid to Cuba, but only if it was distributed by char-

itable groups.

Mr. Castro called the terms "hutailiating," according to the government's Prensa Latina news agency. "We accept with dignity that any country wants to help us," he said,

but we are not disposed to play the role of beggars." Smuggling to Libya:

A German Inquiry FRANKFURT — German prose-culors said Wednesday that they were investigating new allegations that Geman businessmen have smuggled or have tried to smuggle weapons ma-

The German press has reported that Mexico has cooperated in anti-drug (AP)

extend the range of Scud missiles that were supplied to Libya by Iraq.

But the prosecutors confirmed only that they were investigating, and that the suspects were helieved to have

violated export bans. Since 1990, at least six Germans have been convicted and imprisoned of providing Libya with technical equipment and other material intended

for the manufacture of poison gas.

The newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung reported that one of the new cases involved an attempt by a Berlin man and several accomplices to smuggle 660 tons of material used in rocket fuel from Belarus to Libya.

Reno Praises Mexico

WASHINGTON - The U.S. attorney general, Janet Reno, says cooperation between the United States and Mexico in the war on drugs has improved, and she praised the govemment for extraditing more fugitives to the United States for prosecutioo.

'I oever dreamed three years ago I would be seeing extradition at the rate that we're seeing it," Ms. Reno said Tuesday at a Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on the Justice Department's budget request for the 1999 fiscal year. "There is now a good working relationship between the two nations.' The Clinton administration faces a

March 1 deadline to certify whether air taxis, down from 63 in 1996.

U.S. Airlines Had

WASHINGTON — U.S. airlines experienced one of their safest years ever in 1997, just after one of their

accidents involving major American carriers last year. By comparison, there were 342 deaths on ma-The nation's smaller carriers re-

diplomatic settlement in autumn, the Pentagon predicted that Mr. Saddam would block the inspectors again.

Starr Loses His Way

It has long been apparent that Ken Starr has a tin ear for political appearances and public relations, but his decision to subpoena a White House aide, Sidney Blumenthal, undermines important legal and constitutional principles. On the tactical level, this move by the independent counsel is bone stupid. As a matter of principle, it is an attack on press freedom and the unrestricted flow of information that is unwarranted hy the facts and beyond

his mandate as a prosecutor.
This latest blunder fits a pattern of chronic clumsiness and periodic in-sensitivity to Mr. Starr's public responsibilities. His attempt to slongb off his public duty and flee to Pepperdine University was dismaying. His political ties and refusal to give up private legal clients led us, in times past, to call for his removal. In four years he has failed to develop sensitivity to his obligations as custodian of an inquiry of national import. Apparently his staff contains no one who can talk him out of had ideas.

This time be has failed in his obligation to the law itself. The effort to collect the name of every journalist who talked with a White House communications specialist amounts to a perverse use of the prosecutorial mandate to learn what the Nixon White House attempted to determine through wiretaps. Like any newspaper, we have an abvious selfish interest in the confidentiality of the reporting process. But you do not have to be a journalist to see that Mr. Starr has committed an ignorant assault on ooe of the most distinctive and essential elements of American democracy.

He created this mess by following a bad example. Two weeks ago the White

House started its own demagogic search for leaks in an effort to divert attention from the question whether President Bill Clinton and his associates had committed perjury or suborned others to commit it. Mr. Starr may also be miffed by reports that the White House has numed its trademark tool of personal attack on his prosecutorial staff. But he does not need to follow that pernicious example. He is armed with something more honorable and powerful in the mandate of the attorney general and the

majesty of the law. Bot civic bealth demands that Mr. Starr get oo with the investigation he is authorized to conduct and bring it to a speedy conclusion. The public interest does oot lie in Mr. Blumenthal's phone records. It lies in gettiog, as promptly as possible, the testimony of Monica Lewinsky, Vernna Jordan, Bruce Lindsey, Bill Clinton and others whose testimooy bears directly oo the issue of

In a tightly reasoned article in the National Journal, Stuart Taylor Jr. defended Mr. Starr's investigative pro-cedures, including calling Ms. Lewinsky's mother before the grand jury. but called for bim to resigo in favor of someone with less political baggage. We are not at that point, because of the amount of time that would be lost. If at all possible, the nation needs to have this business driven to a conclusion without the delay that a switch io leadership would entail.

Every time Mr. Starr goes off on one of these tangents or misreads the law. he fritters away support from those who believe in the importance of this inquiry but bridle at his loco-weed

-THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Choice for Puerto Rico

The U.S. Congress is getting serious about Puerto Rico's political future, for the first time since the United States picked up the island territory in an imperial war with Spain 100 years ago. By a carefully launched bill that may . reach the floor early next month, the House of Representatives would set up a process to let Puerto Ricans choose their future status from among the cur-reot "commoowealth," statehood and independence options.

This would be no straw poll. The bill would define the details — financial, political, linguistic - nf the statehood option favored in Puertn Rico. It would lock the United States into a 10-year transition to put statehood, or another

chnice, into effect. The bill, sponsored by Hause Resources Chairman Don Ynung, Republican of Alaska, cleared his committee 44-to-1. He anticipates serious debate and substantial approval. It bill calls for but then to burden the

could be a great day for democracy. But it also could be a difficult day. There is concern over the political lineup of the two senators and six congressmen who would go to a new state, and over which states would have to forfeit six seats in the Hnuse. There is argument over whether new tax revenues would, as spoosors claim, wasb out oew social program costs.

But the bot issue is language. There is support among Puerto Ricans to retain their Spanish-language heritage. Some in Congress, however, would make Puerto Rico the battleground for an attempt to legislate English as the official language of the United States.

The Ynung bill undertakes to deal

with this question chiefly by providing for use of English in the courts and other official venues, while increasing and improving English-language training in the schools. This seems sensible. A strict official-English policy ignores that Washington never asked Puerto Rico to embrace English when it took over the island and when Puertn Rico sent its sons to fight in American wars. Such a policy also ignores the extent to which the United States by practice and culture is already a considerably bilingual nation. Alarms of creating an "American Quebec" are a spillnver from the official-English debate.

Puertn Ricans always could get the language of their preference by independence, but that option has never risen above a few percentage points. This makes Congress's definition of statehood crucial. To put statehood an the three successive referendums the option with a provocative English requirement is unfair. It thrusts upon the island's 3.8 million residents a choice between political empowerment and cultural identity. For decades, American political leaders have beld out Puertn Rican statehood as an option. It would be a mockery to load it up with unneeded political accessories the first time it began to look real.

A commitment to common rights, responsibilities and ideals, oot a doniinant language, bonds Americans. A commitment to democracy should drive Americans to ensure Puerto Ricans full and equal rights as American citizens. It has been, after all, 100 years.

-THE WASHINGTON POST.

Other Comment

America on Its Own

Despite the Gulf War, [the United States] had in the Near East the benefit of immense prestige and capacity of action thanks to the peace process and the Oslo accords. But that capital has been squandered. The United States will not recover its prestige until such a time as it forces the band of Benjamin Netanyahu ... All the more so because the appearance oo the scene of a moderate presidency in Iran diminishes, in the eyes of many Arab countries, justification for the beavy American presence in the region ...

that the strong tendency of Americans is to take ever increasing distance from never get its blessing, whatever bighit. In the long term, Europe will therefore have to give itself the means ... of its emancipation.

For the time being, it would do well to realize what is gning on. By way of

direct management of NATO enlarge-ment to Central Europe, Washington is seeking two privileged allies: Polund in the east, Britain in the west. Its goal is well known: the gradual undning of assertive policies of the European Union, and rejection of a political Europe led by France and Germany, in favor of a NATO under U.S. British cootrol.

- Jean-Marie Colombani. publisher, commenting in Le Monde (Paris).

Why go to war? To show that America is determined to impose its own 'world order" by force of arms? But it As for Europe, we should be aware has no mandate from the world community to do any such thing, and will sounding democratic rhetoric is sounded to justify the use of force,

— Mikhail Gorbachev, in a column

distributed by New York Times Special Features.

Herald Tribune

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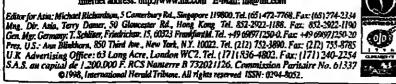
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Seven Challenges for a Brave President in Seoul

HONOLULU—The new president of South Korea confronts seven challenges that comprise the most for-midable trial for his nation since its

liberation from Japan in 1945. This is oo ordinary change of govemment. Kim Dae Jung's success or failure will determine not only the immediate future of Korea but also the security posture of the United States in Northeast Asia, where 80,000 American troops are stationed in South Korea and Japan in a single area of

military operations.

In addition, the fate of the new government will affect other Asian nations struggling to right their capsized economies, to sort out issues of governance, and to find safety in a volatile region.

Mr. Kim is giveo an even chance for success by many Koreans, even those who did not vote for him, and hy some foreign observers, including this writer, who has known him for more than a quarter-century.

His challenges will ioclude:

 Leading South Korea out of a valley of tears into which, like several other Asian natioos, it has plunged with a falling stock market, declining value of currency and a stringent recovery

By Richard Halloran

whose belligerent oegotiating style holds little promise of progress in four-party talks scheduled to resume in Geneva oext month. The United States,

China and the two Koreas are sop-

posedly seeking ways to reduce tension on the Korean Peninsula. Consolidating his political position after getting only 40 percent of the Dec. 18 vote in a three-way race. He has a minnrity in the National Assembly, and has promised a parliamentary system in which be would become a largely fig-

urehead president in two years. · Reducing the corruption that permeates not only the political and basiness worlds but also many aspects of daily life. Koreans say there has been less corruption in receor years, but acknowledge that it is still pervasive.

· Responding to rising anti-Americanism that has spread from left-wing students to midlevels of politics, government hureaccracy and the armed forces. Many Koreans want American forces to leave South Korea even as they wish to retain the country's alliance with the United States.

regimen imposed by the IMF.

• Coping with a hostile North Korea

• Coping with a hostile North Korea

• Coping with a hostile North Korea

al relations. South Korea's rulers have omtured bitter feelings toward Japan ever since 40 years of harsh Japanese rule ended 53 years ago.

• Dissuading Koreans from blaming

someone else for everything that goes wrong, and instead encouraging them to accept responsibility. The initial reaction to the current economic crisis, for instance, was to hlame the United States, Japan and the IMF.

To meet these challenges, President Kim will bring undisputed courage, a thirst for information that is the source of political power, a shrewd analytical ability to set his own politics aside when calculating eveots, and a lifetime of ambitioo, having first sought the presidency in 1971.

Oo the other hand, he is 72 and has had health problems.

His courage has been tested in two attempted assassinations, a court-intposed death penalty, and years of prison or hoose arrest.

In one instance, he was kidnapped from a botel in Tokyo by South Korean government agents in August 1973 and taken out to sea, where his legs and arms were bound with chains and weights. He heard crewmen talking national Herald Tribune.

recover economically and to play a about how to make sure his body disconstructive role in Asia's internation-

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Strong protests from the Japanese and American governments saved his life, and he was returned to Seoul, In a long interview the next night, he gave a detailed account of his ordeal in a calm, almost detached manner.

They had done a beautiful job of kidnapping me and getting me out of Japan, but they made one miscalcalation. They had not expected the Japanese to be in such an oproar over the

infringement of their sovereignty."

After three months of diplomatic maneuvering. President Park Chung Hee sent Prime Minister Kim Jong Pil to Tokyo to apologize for the kidnapping. In a supreme irony, the two Kims, who are not related, made an election carripaign deal last year under which Kim Jong Pil would become prime minister under President Kim Dae Jung.

Kim Dae Jung has indicated that he is aware of most of the tasks before him. In particular, be has vowed that South Korea will tighten its economic beit. He may just pull it off.

The writer, a former correspondent in Asia for The New York Times, contributed this comment to the Inter-

The IMF Reforms Can Make South Korea More Democratic

C EOUL - When the coo-

ditions proposed by the IMF for bailing out South Korea's debt-ridden economy became known in late November, the press and public alike reacted with shock, concern and nationalist indignation. Newspapers began calling the proposed IMF regime an economic trusteeship that would ovenide the country's eco-

nomic sovereignty.

Reflecting this disapproval,
Kim Dae Jung, then an opposition presidential candidate. said that if elected he would "renegotiate" the terms of the agreement with the Fund.

Ironically, it was Mr. Kim - swom in as South Korea's new president on Wednesday who eventually convinced the public that the nation's financial conditions were such that there was no alternative to the program already agreed upon between the government and the IMF.

By Kyung Won Kim

Once elected in December, earlier coolness to the IMF he moved quickly to reassure the U.S. government and the IMF of his resolve to apply the agreement "100 percent." As president-elect, without

waiting for his inauguration, he showed considerable political skill by bringing together representatives of labor, business and government to produce an accord oo sharing pain, including legalized layoffs that had been strongly resisted by trade unions.

Clearly, South Korea's acceptance of the economic reform conditions attached to the \$58 billion emergency loan package arranged by the IMF was made easier by the democratic process that allowed the conditions to be debated openly and fully. The peaceful transfer of power between political parties also aided the process.

program gave him greater credibility wheo he argued that South Korea bad no alternative

but to follow its strictures. The new president and his government will have to deal with soaring unemployment. higher inflation, increasing corporate bankruptcies and many other problems. The social unrest and resistance in change by hig business will present extremely difficult and complex challenges to the government Success is far from assured.

If South Korea succeeds in carrying oot the structural reform program agreed upon with the IMF, that will change the country in important and fundamental ways.

Real reform will produce sufficient transparency in the corporate and banking sectors to make the kind of large-scale As it turned out, Mr. Kim's financing of political parties by

family-run conglomerates im- nancial sector and make major possible. The conglomerates will have to focus on redncing their dangerously high borrowings. They will not be able to finance projects unrelated to the main business of earning

Without funds, it will be impossible to maintain and operate the old-style political machines that dominated Sooth Korea's politics. Without such machines, power elites will find it difficult to sustain the unity and loyalty of their followers.

Power will have to be more broadly shared. The bureaucracy will be freed from the pressures that used to come from politicians to channel resources, including bank loans, to the conglomerates. The rationale for state capitalism and excessive government intervention in the economy will be lost.

The benefits of structural reform are clear, It will modernize and strengthen the fi-

companies increasingly competitive. It will also lead to significant alliances between Snuth Korean and foreign, mainly American, corpora-tions. Marrying U.S. capital and technology with Korean manufacturing strength will have a major impact on the global corporate chessboard.

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Sall was transfer

More open politics and a freer market will strengthen democracy and freedom in South Korea. This is something that members of the U.S. Congress who oppose funding the IMF-should remember. Refusal to support the work of the IMF could weaken moves by a key ally in Asia to transform itself loto a muly democratic society.

The writer, a former South Korcan ambassador in Washington, is president of the Institute of Social Sciences in Seoul. He contributed this comment to the Herald Tribune.

Do Business With Saddam? It Helps to Preserve Him

By David A. Kay

CLEAN, Virginia - Knfi LVL Annan was far too noti mistic on Tuesday when he said 'I think I can do husiness' with Saddam Hussein.

He bas avoided an immediate crisis with Iraq, and President Bill Clinton has given guarded approval to the agreement he brokered in Baghdad. But there are reasons to believe that the agreement won't work.

Not only because Saddam has a history of ignoring such pacts, but also because the agreement is itself fundamen-

The inspections of the eight presidential palaces are to be conducted by a new group, the sixth subcommittee of the UN Special Commission (Unscom).

It is not clear yet what the exact line of authority will be. According to the pact, mem-

bers of the group will be ap-pointed in consultation with Richard Butler, the head of Unscom, and the director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Although the head of the team would report to Mr. Batler, be would be appointed by the UN secretary-general, according to news reports.

In any case, Mr. Annan clearly assumes the ultimate responsibility for this special inspection team. In doing so, he takes oo incompatihle roles: bail bondsman for Saddam, vouching for bis adherence to

the inspection agreement, and leader of the international coalition to make Saddam abide by the inspection agreement.

This arrangement could allow Iraq to play the inspection teams against one another. The 'good' team, led by the Annan appointee, could well find nothing wrong, because after a freeze of more than four months on inspections Saddam's government will have been able to move any evidence from the presidential palaces.

Mr. Butler's teams, oo the other band, may still demand access to more than 50 other sensitive sites. Iraq could try to frustrate these efforts by paint-

ing the teams as troublemakers no a country. Unscom is still erate under the same rules as Mr. Annan's team.

This kind of thing has happened before. For the past six years, Iraq has challenged Unscom to behave more like the International Atomic Energy Agency teams that did not find the Iraqi nuclear program

in the 1980s. It could well be that no inspectioo system has much chance of working.

iraq has gone all-out to acuire weapons of mass destruction and to defeat international attempts to unmask and block those efforts. Even after seven years of the most intrusive arms inspections ever to be imposed

historically has qoarrels of oa-

States, or even to Israel (which

is quite capable of looking after

its interests), reflects a kind of

oeeds steelier oerves. It certainly owes a deht today to the

calm and seosible Kofi Annan.

The world's only superpower

hvsteria.

unsure ni me extent ni t weapons program. To date, Iraq has filed more

than a dozen supposedly complete disclosures of its prohibited weapons, and each one has been shown to be false. The manitoring system did

nnt detect the Iraqi government's efforts after the Gulf War to develop new missiles, nor did it unearth the previously unknown biningical weapons program. Both of these came to light only as a result of the defection of two of Saddam's sons-in-law, who were later lured back to Baghdad and killed. Given their fates, it would be unwise to count on future relatives, equally knowledgeable but naive, to come

forward with oew information. Mr. Annan's latest proposal could set back even the modest inspection progress that Unscom has made.

Buying time before turning tional interest - Iran and to military action is worthwhile Kuwait, plus Saudi Arabia, a only if that time is invested in rival oil producer and, like Iran, trying to change Iraq's political a fuodameotalist Islamic state, situation. By signaling that one whereas Iraq is secular. can do business with Saddam,
To treat Saddam Hussem as Mr. Annan has blocked any opcan do business with Saddam, a serious threat to the United portunity for political change.

> The writer, former chief nuclear weapons inspector in Iraq for the International Atomic Energy Agency, is vice president of Science Applications International, o research and engineering company. He contributed this comment to

International Herald Tribune. Los Angeles Times Syndhrote The New York Times.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1898: Maine Mined?

NEW YORK - The news from Washingtoo to-day [Feb. 25] is graver than at any time since the Maine disaster occurred, and high officials of the Administration no longer conceal the fact that they regard the situation as extremely critical. Although the board of inquiry is still conducting its investigation secretly, all reports from Havana assert that the Maine was destroyed hy an outside explosion, most probably hy a suhmarine mine.

1923: Paintings Found

ROME — During the war, Contessa Tacco, of Gorritz, sought refuge in Italy, abandoning her palace in which there was a fine collection of old paintings, notahly three canvases by Raphael. On returning to the palace after the war, the countess found that the three paintings were missing. They have just been discovered,

after a long search, in the shop of a rag dealer in Genoa, who de-clared that he had bought them from some soldiers.

1948: Communists In

PRAGUE - Czechoslovakia came under Communist rule today [Feb. 25]. With all vital communications, government ministries, police and industrial areas in the hands of the Conmunist party. President Eduard Benes accepted the new cabinet demanded hy Communist Prime Minister Klement Gottwald. In a triumphant mood, Gottwald went before 50,000 of his followers in Prague's historic Wencesias Square, where he had massed them, with a threat of the nation's first general strike mless his terms were approved. President Benes, Gottwald told his cheering listeners, "did not arrive at his decision easily. But Mr. Benes, he said, "had to accept the will of the people.

Gadhafi, another Arab ecemy States is in economic and milof Washington, when it bombed itary terms the most powerful Libya in 1986 in retaliation for country on earth encourages an

incidence that while Kofi Annan was negotiating the

agreement ending, or suspeod-ing, the Iraq crisis, the CIA's internal inquiry on the Bay of Pigs fiasco appeared in the press. Overturning a government is not as simple as many in Washington thought in 1961, and oow thought again during the weeks that led up to the United Nations secretary-general's trip to Baghdad.

ARIS - It is a useful co-

A Wall Street Journal editorial on the agreement negotiated by Mr. Annan, representative of much Washington opinion, deplores that the secretary-general has provided a new obstacle to the United States taking "decisive action against fraq.

What would that decisive actioo be? There's the questioo. Legality aside, if decisive action were so simple, George Bush and eveo Bill Clinton would have taken it loog ago. Solutions of the decisive kind

thrive in the minds of editorial writers. Sunday morning television talk show guests, and complacent politicians, but are less easily available in the actual relations of oations.

The competence of the United States' clandestine and military services usually falters at producing the decisive solution. Possibly a bombing cam-

paign, as plaoned and now suspended, might have killed the fraqi president in a case of that 'collateral damage' military men talk about European military sources say that during the Gulf War, 80 separate sorties were mounted with the specific objective of killing Iraq's president, all of which failed.

The Reagan administration

By William Pfaff

Much Noisy Fuss, and No Solution in View

intended to kill Moammar a Libyan-inspired terrorist attack on American soldiers in Berlin. The raid failed to kill him, but killed his daughter.

Two years later, in 1988, Libyan agents blew up a Pan American flight over Scotland, killing 270 people, most of Americans. Colonel Gadhafi got his reveoge, and is

still alive and well.
Other critics of Mr. Annan's agreement with Saddam Hussein recommend arming and financing Iraqi oppositioo groups, interdicting Iraqi mil-itary movements in the far north and south of the country to allow these opposition forces to operate, giving them diplomatic recognition as a provisional government, getting the present government ejected from the United Nations, and so forth.

All that is practical, and not fantasy, in such a program has been tried and has failed. Saddam Hussein invaded the U.S.-protected zone in oorthern

fraq two years ago to crush forces supported by the CIA, routing them in the worst CIA fiasco since the Bay of Pigs. Survivors were evacuated to Guarn, to keep them quiet during the 1996 election campaign. Efforts to organize military

coups in Iraq have repeatedly failed, including one in 1996 in which British intelligence was active. The Iraqi president's security services are simply very good, as they ought to be, since his survival is their raison d'être and they have claim on whatever resources they need.

The fact that the United

expectation of omnipotence -as well as an assumption of omniscience, as when Madeleine Alhright said last Sunday that we stand tall and therefore we

can see farther.' The public not unreasonably thinks that if America has greater military power than the rest of the world combined, it ought to be able to put away a sordid despot like Saddam Hussein. and do what it wants with Iraq. This was just the assumption

behind the Bay of Pigs failure. It produced the self-deception within the CIA which, in his now released report, the agency's in-spector-general, Lyman Kirkpatrick, describes as "unmitigated and almost willful ... ludicrous and tragic or both." This arrogance was no dif-

ferent from that with which the United States, not long after, went into Vietnam to settle with those raggedy little men in hlack pyjamas. The lessoo that America's power is limited is hard for

Washington to accept. Its con-

sequent frustration, combined

with its illusions, repeatedly has

prompted it to build these confrontations up into huge affairs of naoonal prestige. Saddam Hussein, even with whatever survives of his chemical weapons, nuclear and missile programs and hiological warfare experiments, remains a very small problem on the scale

of the world's problems. He is, moreover, a problem primarily for the countries on his horders, with whom Iraq

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OPINION/LETTERS

lent in Seoul

appeared beoeath the waves appeared beoeath the waves appeared beoeath the waves are surned protests from the said American government of the high being interview the next night being interview the night being interview the night being interview.

Lapan. but they made one approach of inton. They had not expected to the in such an upwards. ministement of their sowiets, missing to be in section in about.

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After three months of dplotter in a supreme grow, the two kinster Kin logs.

Tokyo to anologize for the kinster kin supreme grow, the two kinster kins in a supreme trony, the two kings are not related, made an elegation deat last year under state paign deat last year under state. hing Pil would become primer and under President Kim Dae lim

Kim Dae Jung has indicades is aware of most of the lade birn. In particular, he has role, South Korea will tighten to the belt. He may just pull it off.

Inc writer, a farmer correspond to Asia for The New York line. ributed this comment to the course and Herald Tribune.

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South Korean and a mainis American, e tions. Marrying UIg and technology with is manufacturing arms. have a major impact giobal corporate chesig More open poline; Without such freet market will streng. Aites and the de meetacy and freedoms: win the unity This is sometime mumbers of the US Co # follow B AN IN CITY who oppose funding & 解为stepaste should remember Rate AND the grown area in work of the Same from weaken movesh Bel resolutions. Life in Asia to transfer. mater in the mile a truly democratical

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when the The extent of a ы дары - program. SAUTE TO AN Fig. 1. Iraq has file. deren inapose is thung For the Last red weapons and decime challenge! bearing shown to be the see many like The monitoring was Manage En not letter the last? mar that and a mient - stion, and it. efcar group and Will be develop to the 12 Haneuth the Bar. Both of the Ca in that no in has made night only in a resident. testion of mo of all one to an to other law, who as THE PARTY NAMED IN Line Seek to Banks # mtermittern Given then E. AND THE PARTY which the unwise was co affer lave. berraia ve atris tal unit ! to be make all with new mile

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1997 Sept. Verk Times. which is as it should be.

WASHINGTON — In the long history of American

Paula Jones, Monica Lewinsky and other cornely young tadies what we have is a presidency charchapter more ludicrous than the acterized by timidity and cvasion.

Spacey, Smug America

Gets What It Deserves

By Jonathan Yardley

one now unfolding? Surely not.

Lord knows, American leaders have made stupid, ill-advised de-

cisions in the past, but they did so

within a more or less rational,

responsible context. This is just

about the last thing that can he

said of the present exercise in

who has far less claim to military

leadership than did George Bush

and who has no claim at all 10

moral leadership, America's lead-

ers are trying to figure out how to

Let's assume that something has to be done — that in his own part of the world, and possibly on

a far larger scale, Saddam Hussein

is not merely a nuisance and a

mischief maker but a menace. His violation of UN agreements

is reason enough to call him on the

carpet. If it is true that he has the

capacity to conduct hiological

warfare beyond the borders of

Iraq - not to mention his known

capacity to launch attacks by more

conventional means - that is

So get him out of there. But do it

by presidential decisiveness and

leadership, not by poll taking, tea

leaf reading, astronomy (or should we make that astrology?), meteo-rology, market sampling and tele-

vision scheduling.
Yet it is precisely all of the above

or other, one of these days, maybe,

When Theodore Roosevelt

sought to urge the nation toward

consensus and action, he mounted

what he so famously called the

Clinton is conducting what Barton

Geliman of The Washington Post described as "a marketing

campaign for air strikes on Iraq

Whatever the explanation for it

- surely much has to do with

'bully pulpit' of his office. Mr.

about Saddam Hussein.

cause to root him out.

the 1960s.

screw it up again.

"Everyone's got the calendar out," Sieven Erlanger reported in The New York Times, 'trying to schedule a manageable little war with Iraq. There are the Islamic holy days to consider, the cycles of the moon, the president's trip to Africa and even parents' weekend at Stanford University" (IHT, Feb. 17).

dithering and pandering.
It all begins with Saddam Hussein, who is to America in the 1990s what Fidel Castro was in There is also CNN, which as a Wall Street Journal editorialist pointed out, "knowing that its viewership rises during anything Washington had the chance to extirpate Saddam in 1990 and in the news with a passing rehlew it, thanks to an extraordinary semblance to a crisis ... bas been flogging the 'crisis' with Iraq." failure of presidential and military resolve. Now, under a president

Hence the truly amazing — and not a little degrading — picture of the secretaries of state and defense dragged before CNN's cameras and an audience at Ohio State University to present the case for a war in Iraq. The audience turned out to

be most gratifyingly hostite. These, mind you, are the same people who have been giving Mr. Clinton higher and higher ratings as suspicions about his personal behavior and ethical probity have become more and more plausible.

Fully 58 percent of vox pop. according to a recent poll, believe that "Clinton has a clear policy on which suggests that the American people arc smoking en masse what Mr. Clinton himself, when young, sampled hul (he says) did not inhale.

To Mr. Clinton, this poll is proof that the public is on his side. But surely a more realistic view is that the American people, hlissed out on the big hull market and round-the-clock entertainment, are perfectly happy to let the pres-ident do any old thing he chooses so long as it's painless for them.

that Bill Clinton is using as he stumbles toward doing something What we are watching now is not policy-making, it is a parody, one that comes appallingly close to slapstick. We have a country spaced out on smugness and merrily indifferent to public affairs led by a president under the influence of marketers and pollsters.

Maybe the American people really don't want a coherent foreign policy. Maybe all they want is to live a little longer on Fantasy Island. If that's the case, they have just the president they deserve.

The Washingson Post.

Not So Nasty, Brutish or Short: Life Keeps Looking Up

WASHINGTON - Look around when you are next in a theater, a mall, classroom or religious service. (I happened to be in a church celebrating a wedding as this thought entered my mind.) Note the well-dressed man who

might be an engineer, the neatly groomed woman who might be a business exec-utive, the casually dressed service worker and other middle-class attendees. Reflect that 200 years ago or less, the

ancestors of 19 out of every 20 people you see today were living at or just above subsistence level somewhere in the world: grubbers in the soil or perhaps village smiths or shoemakers. Virtually all of their ancestors were people that the tiny middle and upper classes thought of as loutish and dull peasants whose lot in life 'nasty, brutish and short' in Thomas Hobbes's famous phrase - would not greatly improve before their deaths.

The situation was pretty much the same for every generation, going back 2,000 or

'The farther back you look," Winsınn Churchill is reputed to haye said, "the further ahead you can see." When we look very far back, we see clearly that the longterm prospects for the standard of living of all humanity are spectacularly good.

The progress that humanity has experienced in the last two centuries has no precedent. Since 1750, every trend in material human welfare has shown accelerating improvement, almost everywhere. tt is pur happy fate to live in the midst of

this most amazing time. These trends do not mean that people will be more or less "happy" about their own lives; about that I have no prediction. Nor am I ignoring contemporary social ills: mass graves in Bosnia, HIV epidemics, sexual exploitation of children and the like. These are sometimes eited as justification for long-range pessimism about the state of humanity. But over the last 200 years, pessimistic forecasts about By Julian Simon

human prospects based on anecdotes about social ills have been repudiated by the reality of material progress.

An especially mistaken forecast was made by the English economist Thomas Malthus in 1798 when he predicted in

MEANWHILE

"An Essay on the Principle of Population" that population growth was an inexorable juggernaut that would keep the mass of mankind in misery forever.

To Malthus's credit, after his dismally wrong first edition based on nothing but arithmetic and speculation, he educated himself and reversed his original con-clusions. Unfortunately, almost no one pays attention to the correction Matthus made in his own theory.

The claims of modem-day Malthusians notwithstanding, mankind's progress will continue indefinitely in the future. Barring catastrophic surprises in the first half of the 21st century, most of humanity witt soon come to share the long healthy life that is now enjoyed by the middle-class residents of the advanced countries.

Consider the history of life expectancy.

Since the mid-18th century, the life expectancy of the average person in England, for example, had gone from the mid-30s to almost 70 by 1985.

The speed of the race against death has been breathtaking since the first miracle drugs against infection were used in the 1930s. Progress in the fight against the AIDS virus in recent years is but the latest demonstration of the awesome intellectual power that humanity can now muster against threats to our well-being.

This power results from tested theories accumulated during the post millennium and especially during the past two centuries. It also flows from our communal

wealth. Much more than the power to rise. The higher prices present opporcreate and enjoy gadgets, our wealth represents the power to mobilize nature to our advantage, rather than to just accept the random fates of nature.

Consider diabetes: If your child had early. Now injections, even pills, can give the child almost as long and healthy a life as other children. And glasses: Centuries ago you had to give up reading when your exeight got dim as you reached 40 or 50.

Thus is not just the good fortune of a few. The improvement in material human welfare in poor countries since World War II has been startling. The economist Richard Easterlin calculates that by 2050, the average income in the present-day Third World's poor countries will be about 80 percent of the average per capita U.S. income in 1990.

By any measure, natural resources have become more available rather than more scarce. There is evidence that oil - the most worrisome of resources because it is mostly burned up and therefore cannot be recycled - has actually been getting cheaper to produce.

On the one hand, the falling price of oil throughout the 20th century was proof that the overall cost of obtaining oil had to be falling. But wells were being drilled deeper and deeper, which called into question whether the physical production costs were rising in some important parts of the industry. But industry data show that the worldwide production cost per barret has been falling since 1980. So not only is more oil being found but it is getting cheaper. and not more expensive, to find it.

How are we to understand the trends of the past and their implications for the tuture?

A theory that fits the facts: More people and increased income cause problems of increased scarcity of resources in the short

run. Heightened scarcity causes prices to

tunity, and prompt inventors and entre-preneurs to search for solutions.

The record of humanity shows that, on average, the people in each generation create a hit more than they use up. Not only diabetes 100 years ago, you had to watch helplessly as the child went blind and died in our wealth and numbers, but if this were not so we simply would have become extinct as a species. The essential condition of fitness for survival of our species is that each generation creates a net surptus

on avcrage, or at least breaks even. The doubters wonder whether our resent glorious age is just another hlip in history, like the Egyptian, Persian and Roman empires and the golden age of Greece. They ask why we should believe that the progress we have experienced since 1750 is irreversible breakthrough.

One reason is that ours is the first age in which material gains have been enjoyed by more than just a tiny fraction of hu-

Also, every measure of human material welfare has shown dramatic improvement, not only life expectancy and mortality, but also transportation, communications, nutrition, leisure time, you

Finally, the concept of evolution argues that - in the absence of huge change in the physical world from climate change or planetary collision - humanity will continue to go forward. We ride the greatest trend of all: We leave the world a little better than we entered it. This is the strongest reason to believe that humanity will not retreat to the Stone Age or to extinction.

Julian Simon was a University of Maryland business professor and the outhor of The State of Humanity" and "The State of Humanity 2." This essay, summarizing his most recent work, was adapted from a piece he submitted to The Washington Past shortly before his deoth on Feb. 8.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Iraq Crisis

Regarding "Attacking Iraq: Immorol and Counterproductive" (Opinion, Feb. 19) by William

Immoral? Winston Churchill sacrificed the English city of Coventry so that the Germans would not be aware that Alan Turing had deciphered their Enigma code. Norwegian commandos sank a ferry carrying their own country-men because it was also carrying heavy water thought vital for Hitler's atomic program, which the

Norwegians erroneously believed was close to completion. This was a bypothetical threat, too. What is immoral was to have

sold Saddam Hussein the means to manufacture weapons of mass destruction in the first place. MLADEN ANDRUASEVIC.

Beersheba, Israel,

Regarding "Jordan Feors It 'Can Only Lose' in o U.S. Assault on Iraq" (Feb. 20):

The article is on target in asserting that Jordan could only lose from an attack on Iraq. Jordan

paid a heavy price during the Gulf War, absorbing tens of thousands of refugees, losing traq as its primary trading partner and being set back in its economic restructuring program. But it is not true that King Hussein ever "suppor-

ted' Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. King Hussein has tried to resolve the crisis within an Arab framework. If anyone in Jordan should be criticized, it is not King Hussein but the likes of opposition leader Leith Shubeilat, who advocates violence and plays no constructive role in tostering peace in the region. MASSOUD DERHALLY.

Would the United States not be in a stronger position in demanding that Iraq observe UN resolutions if it itself observed the rules and paid its UN dues in full? M. CHASE.

Bonifacio, Corsica.

Skating as Sport Regarding "Figure Skating May Be Lovely, But That Doesn't

Make It Sport" (Sports, Feb. 21) by Michael Wilbon. It is too bad that Mr. Wilbon

takes such a narrow view of figure skating. While the judging of figure skating and ice dancing needs an overhaul to ensure impartiality, that does not diminish the athletic aspect of a highly competitive and popular sport.

Also, skaters not only have to complete difficult moves, but they have to make them look easy,

CAROL CAVANAUGH Frederickshurg, Virginia.

BOOKS

JACK LONDON: A Life

By Alex Kershaw, 335 pages, \$25.95. St. Martin's.

Reviewed by Jonathan Yardley THAT the life of Jack London con-tinues to attract the attention of biographers more than three-quarters of a century after his premature death comes as no surprise, because — not to put too fine a point on it — London lived one hell of a life. It was, as Alex Kershaw writes, London oot Hemingway "who first personified the writer as man of action, who truly lived out what he wrote," and it was from the raw material of London's example that the romantic American myth of the writer-adventurer was constructed. Like Hemingway. London is more important, and perhaps more interesting, for his persona than for his work, which makes him in some

respects a hiographer's dream.
Thus Kershaw's bibliography lists more than a dozen full or limited London biographies; the most recent of these for a general readership, Andrew Sinclair's "Jack," was published two decades ago. In the intervening years nothing of moment has been discovered about London that in and of itself would mandate a re-examination of his life, but that has not prevented Kershaw from writing this readable, intelligent and discriminating book. As one who has come to believe that brevity should often if not always be the soul of biography. I es-pecially welcome it here; Kershaw describes in detail what he believes to be important about London's life and work and mentions the rest only in passing,

Advance copies of the book boasted that it has "already [been] optioned for film by Disney/Touchstone." Although one shudders to speculate about what harmer of hash the creative geniuses at

story, it certainly is true that the story has many elements of cinematic drama: a hard, Dickensian childhood in the custody of a psychotic mother; early confinement to physical labor followed by long apprenticeships in many brutal trades; brief but traumatic incarceration in jail; adventures at sea and in the dives of old San Francisco; the persistent nurturing, through all this degradation, of a sensitive mind and a literary amhition; a sudden explosion - almost literally meteoric - onto the literary scene with the 1903 publication of "The Call of the Wild"; a long side career as an enthusiastic if intellectually unrigorous devotee of and spokesman for socialism; an unwise marriage followed hy a melodramatic divorce and remarriage; spectacular successes that failed to yield genuine happiness or assuage deep selfdoubt; a South Pacific voyage and a California mansion, the first cut off short in disarray and the second destroyed hy fire, and lurking in the back throughout it all the demon rum, the preferred agent of self-destruction of 20th-century Amer-

ican writers and artists. All of that and still more, for not merely was Jack London the first to give us the writer as adventurer, he was also the first to give us the writer as celebrity. His fine novel "Martin Eden" — Kershaw is one of too few students of his work to give it proper respect - is, along with another book called "John Barleycorn," the most autohiographical of London's books and remains even now, almost nine decades after its publication, the definitive exploration from within of an American artist's longing for fame and wealth and of the price that is paid when these are achieved.

Perhaps almost all American lives are cautionary tales; certainly London's was. It is the story of what happens when one gets everything one wants before one is ready for it too much too soon. The that factory might make of London's baubles that the great American dream

BRIDGE

machine bestows upon successful writers are far less numerous and precious than those it offers to others in more lucrative lines of work, but they are generous enough to distract their recipients from singleminded attention to their work. It is by now an old story, fleshed out

not merely hy all those demigods of the 1920s and 1930s - Hemingway and Fitzgerald and Wolfe - hut also by the likes of the "Brat Pack" of the 1980s, who fell afoul of publicity and eclat while they were still mere babes. But in London's day the story was as yet untold, and if one can bear this in mind while reading his life, the sense of foreboding can be grim and depressing.

London was 27 when "The Call of the Wild" was published, an age at which

most people are still trying to figure out what their life's work will be. It is true that he had had nearly a decade and a half of harsh and demeaning labor, that his efforts at writing had mostly been contemptuously dismissed and that he was gripped by frustration; but for all of that, his literary success arrived with dizzying, if not paralyzing, swiftness. He managed to do more work, some of it exceedingly good, but it did not take him long to sink into disenchantment and hitterness.

ONDON'S story was not quite so clear-cut as he fancied it to be. If on the one hand he detested the phoniness of the world into which renown plunged him, on the other hand he calculatedly contributed to that renown, not through his work but through the construction of a persona, including "a heroic ancestry, the genealogy of a great Californian," that bore scant resemblance to reality. In this he anticipated Hemingway and Faulkner and innumerable others who, no matter what they may have said to the cootrary, thought the work was not enough and contrived personal mythologies by way of gilding the lily.

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Emelé un diux Me diameter. By Alan Truscott

POR a hand providing drama and imitation in high degree, the diagramed deal would be hard to beat. It occurred in a private team game last month at the Jupiter Island Club in Hobe Sound, Florida. South and West were both surprised to have freak hands, with 12 cards in two

At the first table, Sissy Ducey and Alice Lupton sat North-South, with Millie and Tom Cushing East-West South opened with one diamond, knowing she would have further chances. West ventured a Michaels cue-bid.

when an opponent is known to have at least five. North tried to convey this message with a jump to three hearts. South was not sure what

was going on, but made a sensible jump to six diamonds, reaching a good contract. The lead was crucial, and West made the winning decision by choosing a spade. South had to win with the ace and lost an entry prematurely. She threw a club on the ace of hearts, theo thought care-

Finally she tried to cash another heart and was unhappy when East ruffed and the slam failed, since two club tricks a club. Then be led a club to had to be lost. It was some the ace and was devastated to consolation to find that the see West ruff. Too late, he Showing both major suits. consolation to find that the second that he could have alternative but inferior play of realized that he could have guaranteed 13 tricks, and Provide for this situation: finessing the club queen at guaranteed 13 tricks, and

holding a strong six-card suit trick three would also have gained 19 imps, by ruffing failed, since West can ruff. In the replay, the North-South cards were held by Joan by ruffing a low heart.

Campbell and Eckley Coxe, known as Buzzy. East and West were Marjorie White-head and Windred Walker. South opened two clubs, strong and artificial, and evenmally tried seven diamonds after West had overcalled in spades. Seven no-trump would have been laydown, but it is +hard to blame South for failing to consider that possibility.

Again West had to guess, and misguessed by leading a heart. South finessed the heart A A Q 9 3 North and South were ten and when it won he threw South West 6 0 Pass

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CribTech

Disk-Drive Madness: How Far Can It Go?

Move Over, Chipmakers, It's a Capacity Game

By John Markoff New York Times Service

AN JOSE, California — An IBM laboratory has developed a disk drive the size of a poker chip that can hold the equivalent of more than 500 large navels, offering striking evidence that one of the computer industry's nidest technnlogies is in the

midst of a remarkable renaissance. While Silicon Valley has for decades been mesmerized by the hlinding pace nf the semiconductor industry, in the past seven years the disk storage in-dustry has been moving forward at an even more mind-boggling clip.

In December, scientists at International Business Machines Corp.'s Almaden Research Laboratory, tucked in the hills above Silicon Valley, announced that they had succeeded in storing more than 11.6 hillion bits of data in one square inch (about 6.5 square centimeters) on the surface of a rotating magnetic disk.

Last week, researchers at Quinta, a division of Seagate Technology Inc., the world's largest independent disk-drive maker, announced a daring storage approach that would blend microscopic optical lasers with traditional magnetic recording technology, pushing the storage capacity of the disk drive well beyond what has long been believed to be the physical limit of magnetic media.

Sn impressive are the storage gains that disk-drive engineers are now suggesting the previously unthinkable: replacing computer memory chips with tiny disk drives for devices such as digital cameras and handheld computers.

That would be sweet revenge for the relatively insular community of diskdrive makers. It has long found itself taking a back seat to the more glamorous semiconductor industry.

That is changing as the disk-drive industry mnunts a sustained price-performance curve even steeper than that described by Monre's Law, which holds that the processing power of the integrated circuits etched into silicon chips will double every 18 months.

BM's DATA show that storage density has grown 60 percent an-Linually since 1991, while semiconductor density has grown a maximum of 50 percent each year, It was 1991 when IBM introduced a technology for reading digital information known as the MR (for magnetoresistive) head. The head is the part of a drive that moves back and forth over the spinning magnetic disk, writing data to it or reading from it.

'if we simply look at real density, the data suggest that magnetic is moving faster than silicon," said A. Currie Munce Jr., director of storage systems at

For consumers, this increase in capacity has meant falling costs for computer data storage, producing the kinds of

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disk drive industry is at:

inexpensive, high-capacity drives that made possible the first real multimedia computing. A survey by Disk/Trend Inc., a consulting firm in Mountain View, California, of the average cost of hard-drive storage shows that the average cost of a megabyte of storage plummeted to 10 cents as 1997 ended from \$11.52 in 1988. It readicts the cost will fell to 2 1988. It predicts the cost will fall to 2 cents in two years.

James Porter, president of Disk/Trend, said, "That means that the parts count for each disk drive has fallen dramatically, while the value delivered to the consumer is significantly greater."

There are many technological advances in today's disks, but IBM's MR head was probably the biggest step forward. Today, IBM's densest magnetic-technology products — 2.5-inch disks designed for the portable computer market — store 3.1 billion bits of information per inch. IBM researchers at Almaden now say they expect further advances for five or more years, until they encounter a physical limit known as the superparamagnetic effect. The term refers to a point at which discrete magnetic areas on a disk's surface will be so tiny that their magnetic arientation will be unstable at room temperature.

THE IBM scientists predict they will reach that limit by using a more sensitive version of MR technology called the giant magnetoresistive, or GMR, head. GMR, the basis of the experimental 11.6 gigabits-persquare-inch storage record reached last year, is based on an unusual physical

In 1988, French scientists discovered that certain magnetic materials displayed an unusually large increase in electrical resistance when they were exposed to a magnetic field, IBM researchers soon determined that by layering exotic materials they could fabricate a generation of ultrareceptive sensors that allowed data to be packed more densely.

But while IBM was the first to introduce and market the new GMR heads, today it is in a hot race to commercialize the new technology. In Japan, both Yamaha Corp. and TDK Corp. are in the early stages of producing GMR heads, and several U.S. compa-

nies are developing them.

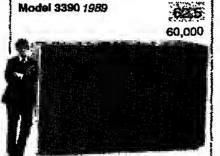
The market for fixed disk drives grew to \$34 billion in 1997, with the industry shipping more than 126 million units, according to Disk/Trend.

The industry is still dominated by U.S. companies, including IBM, Seagate, Quantum Corp. and Western Digital Corp. But the pace of technological ge, coupled with renewed compe tition from Japan and from start-up companies in South Korea, has put pressure on some independent American disk makers. Seagate in particular has struggled. In the six months ended Jan. 2, its sales fell 20 percent, to \$3.57 billion.

IBM's strategy has been to protect itself from the most brutally competitive parts of the market by using its technological advantage to focus on segments with significantly higher margins: port-able disk drives and top-of-the-line workstations and network servers.

Now IBM is exploring the market for tiny disks designed to plug into the same receptacles as the flash memory chips widely used in digital cameras. The cameras are creating a need for highcapacity storage space, or "digital film." The plan is to mass-produce wafer-sized disks that will store more than 500 megabytes nf data.









Source: IBM Almaden Research Center.

The concept may never take nff, however, Mr. Porter said, noting that IBM will face stiff competition from Inmega Corp.'s new Clik drive, which is designed to be built into small digital devices such as cameras. Scheduled to be shipped to manufacturers in the second half of this year, the drive will use a 3.3-by-2.1-inch removable disk that will store 40 megabytes of data and is expected to sell for \$10.

Also on the horizon are two Silicon Valley startups - Seagate's Quinta and Terastor Corp. Both are planning to demonstrate protntypes of a class of disk this year combining lasers, magnetic sensors and microelectromechanical systems, or tiny mechanical systems made using techniques of semiconductor man**ALT** /Commentary

A Nostalgia for the Days of Keypunch

Binary Codes From Yesteryear Inspire Technological Flights of Fancy

Java, taking for granted what was hardly imaginable when I wrestled with pixel

plotting. In a window of his Sun work-

By Edward Rothstein New York Times Service

The dark marks on the linnlenm are the remnants of where, some 30 L years agn, a noisy keypunch stood. I once spent hours thumping at its keyboard, punching out lines of Fortran computer programs onto cards that once warned users not to "fuld, spindle, or mutilate." Each card coded a single line

nf the program. But more often than not, there were errors somewhere. Printouts had to be pored nver, control panel lights examined. Sometimes, individual "addresses" in the computer's memory had to be checked to find out where things were going wrong. The sole purpose was to get an individual pixel on a black and white video screen to respond to the movement of a light pen — a precursor of the mouse.

It was easy to miss the forest for the trees. Or rather, for a leaf. Or for a single vein. For the real purpose of that pixel, of the hundreds of lines of code, of those massive, refrigerator-sized tape drives whirring back and forth, was found in the next room of the cement-walled A.W. Wright Nuclear Structure Laboratory at Yale University.

There, a massive nuclear accelerator was projecting beams of particles onto a square-centimeter film of tin or tungsten ar some more exatic isotope. The most advanced computer technology was used to help examine the gamma-ray pulses that emerged. The data needed to be seen more quickly and "massaged" with greater flexibility.

For an undergraduate with a passion for abstract mathematics and an interest in physics, there was great appeal in coming into this brightly lit lab late at night to work on such arcane matters. But there was also exasperation in struggling to make hundreds of lines of instructions execute simple commands: Display a graph of all the pulses of energy that emerge from that bombarded film; then let the light pen amplify some pulses for closer inspection.

espite the appealing challenges of dissecting these apparently simple requests for information into their primitive, machine-ready atoms, exasperation won out. After a few years, I retreated to mathematical abstraction and to the more profoundly moving demands of the piano keyboard. Returning to the lab last week for a

visit raised second thoughts. The experiments being done were similar (though the 1960s vintage accelerator was replaced with a 20 million voil "tandem Van de Graaff" model in 1987). A postdoctoral fellow in nuclear astrophysics, Ken Swartz, was sitting in the same ald computer room, its floor scarred with the marks of long-discarded hardware.

Mr. Swartz was working on a program in a recently devised language,

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Related sites on the Internet: Information on the Wright Nuclear Structure Laboratory is at:

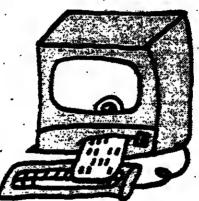
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station sat the long-sought graph of ex-perimental results. In four lines of Java code, more was accomplished than in hundreds of lines of Fortran. At the same time, the tools them-

selves are unrecognizable. The room-filling IBM 360/44 I worked on with all its clunky mechanical apparatus had been replaced by an IBM 4341, which gave way to a Concurrent 3280, a system that John Baris, the director of computer systems, pointed out to a visitor as "that pile of junk you see out in the corridor." Now data collection is



handled by a book-sized circuit board. Technological advances can inspire nostalgia for machinery or crafts being displaced. I felt none of that. The earlier tools were inadequate to their tasks; we had been pushing their limits. It was like asking a stenographer to catch every word of a taped speech while also count-ing those words and alphabetizing them.

Now tasks are easily accomplished, so new questions can be asked: What words are being used from earlier speeches? Do the pauses between words have mean-

ing? What language is being used? That shift in perspective and possibility seemed almost palpable when one of the lab's leading physicists, Con Beausang, led me to a workstation located on the spot where the keypunch . Times.

once sat. A graph of gamma ray canis

sions was on the display.

"Thirty years ago," Mr. Beansang said, "that would have taken maybe a week." Of course, we know computers keep getting faster — but we tend to think of these increases as merely quantitative: allowing graphics to be dis-played more easily, or permitting more elaborate simulations. But something more profound has changed. The nature of detail is different, and so are the premises. More is taken for granted, so more can be imagined.

Richard Casten, said: "The works is not just quantitatively different but qualitatively different. We can an-i swer questions we really gave upon years, ago. "Structural information is discerned just as before, from the raw members. corresponding to the pulses of gammaray radiation. But now, 30 detectors are arranged in a sphere around the point of impact in a room known as the "Gamma" Cave." The "events" are pinpointed in nanoseconds. Each experiment produces' between 50 and 100 gigabytes of data.

Mr. Beausang said that 30 years ago this mass of data would have been beyond:

the powers of any computer to process. There was too little power to consider the kinds of questions now being asked.

This was at once humbling, exhilarating and exasperating. We think of technology as evolutionary, each new step building on a step taken before. Perhaps that display of experimental data on the screen was made possible in some small degree by the old tedious. work at the keypunch. But in that oncefamiliar lab, the current technology had turned ald work into trivia.

That is partly illusion; computers still. work with I's and O's, the trials of the past inform the present. But the past's disposability is also why technology inspires flights of fantasy -- for a fleeting moment, I wondered what it would: be like to write code again.

Edward Rothstein writes the biweekly Connections column for the New York.

TECHNOLOGY INDEX

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• STAR TURN FOR A MEGATELESCOPE: For the past decade, a consortium of European natious has been building what will be by far the world's largest optical telescope. Three manths from now, the first of the Very Large Telescope's four glass eyes will open on the universe, and a new era in astronomy will begin.

When finished in 2002, the instrument is expected to urpass in performance any optical telescope ever huilt, and it is is likely to remain the warld's observing champion through much of the 21st century. The telescope will hunt through the Southern Hemisphere sky for the planets of other star systems, for galaxies as they looked just after the birth of the universe and for other objects inaccessible to existing telescopes.

Each of the four light-gathering mirrors at the heart of the instrument nearing completion on top of Paranal Mountain in the Atacama Desert in Chile is 27 feet (8.3 meters) in diameter, and the light from all four will be combined to yield images equivalent to those produced by a mirror 53 feet in diameter.

Since 1987, when the European Snuthern Observatory: consortium representing eight European nations decided to build the Very Large Telescope, the organization's scientists have confronted staggering problems: how to make enormous glass mirrors lighter, how to move them from France to the Chilean wilderness, how to reduce the twinkling caused by atmospheric turbulence and how to pay for the \$500 million

•SALUTES ON SOFTWARE: The Electronic Frontier: Fnundation has given Pioneer awards to Linus Torvalds, creator of the Linux operating system, and Richard Stallman, creator of the GNU development-software tools, the on-line-

news organization C-Net reported.

The GNU and Linux "free software" development modelwas the inspiration for Netscape Communications Corp.'s recent decision to release the source code of its Communicator snite, C-Net said.

•AOL LOGS IN A MILLION: America Online Inc., the world's biggest on-line service, said Wednesday its two-yearnld European operation had gained its millionth customer. raising the stakes in Europe's rapidly growing an-line in-dustry. Europe's current an-line leader, Germany's T-Online. owned by Deutsche Telekom AG, expects to pass the 22 million-user threshold within days, in time for Telekom to unveil the achievement at next month's CeBit technology trade fair in Hannover, a Telekom spokesman said. Nearly all

of T-Online's subscribers are in Germany. AOL operates in Europe through a joint venture with Bertelsmann AG of Germany. AOL Bertelsmann Europa said it had doubled its membership in the past year. AOL, which: has 11 million customers around the globe, this month completed the acquisiting of CompuServe Inc., which has 850,000:

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More is taken for easily SEOUL - President Kim Dae Jung. peaking at his inauguration Wednesday, blamed the former presidents seated behind him for South Korea's economic turmoil and promised to overhaul the economy by promoting "democracy and onomic development in parallel.

Before more than 40,000 people massed in front of the domed National Assembly building, Mr. Kim criocized his predecessors almost immediately after shaking their hands and taking the oath of office as the first South Korean corresponding to the pulse of opposition leader ever elected president. The outgoing president, Kim Young

The outgoing president, Kim Young Sam, and Chun Doo Hwan and Roh Tae Woo, generals and former presidents who had been jailed for corruption and their roles in the Kwangju massacre of May 1980, sat expressionless as Kim Dae Jung said the country was in deep trouble economically because "the political, economic and financial leaders of this country were tainted by a collusive link between politics and business.

Kim Young Sam in December freed Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh as a gesture of reconciliation.' Kim Dae Jung hinted at the pos-

sibility of an investigation and trials of those responsible for the crisis, saying the country must "calmly and squarely look back to find out how we have arrived at this state of affairs.

Mr. Kim made clear be had accepted eotirely the prescription for recovery as set forth by the International Monetary Fund in piecing together a \$60 billion loan package for rescuing the economy from bankruptcy in December.

But he also showed that he viewed democracy as indispensable for ecocomic recovery.

"Democracy and the market economy are two sides of a coin or two wheels of a cart," he said. "If they were separated, we could oever succeed."

President Kim's hopes for immediate legislative cooperation in revamping the nation's centrally directed economy were dashed sooo after the speech when the Grand National Party, the party that loog controlled the presidency and oow holds a majority in the General Assembly, threatened to derail his program by blocking ratification of his choice of

prime minister. A sign of the unease caused by the legislative standoff was that the Korean composite slock index fell 4.53 percent to 516.38 points.

In his speech, Mr. Kim tried to offer hope for financial interests large and small. He promised help for thousands of small and medium-sized enterprises that had gone bankrupi or are on the brink of doing so.

On the other hand, he promised au-tonomy for the giant conglomerates, the chaebol, which have been blamed for stifling competitors and overextending themselves while amassing debt many times larger than their equity.

'Large corporations and small busicesses are equally important," he said.
"We will help both of them develop by
guaranteeing the independence of large
corporations and extending concentrated support to small and mediumsized businesses. He placed himself on a collision

course with the chaebol, however, by vowing to follow through with economic changes that they oppose.

He also suggested that foreigo io-

vestment, often viewed with deep suspicion by Korean bureaucrats, may be just as important economically as restructuring the chaebol. As if to underline the point, the pop singer Michael Jackson, who attended

the inauguration, traveled afterward to the oearby port city of Inchon to inspect land owned by Dong Ah Constructioo Industrial Co. Mr. Jackson is reported to want to open a theme park for children South Korea. The international financier George

Soros was also in the country, at Kim Dae Jung's request, investigating the possibility of a large-scale investment that members of Mr. Kim's team bope will lead other foreigners to invest in South Korea's future

■ Hyundai Plans to Restructure

Hyundai Corp., South Korea's largest chaebol, announced a restructuring plan that would put its octogenarian founder and honorary chairman, Chung Ju Yung, back to work as chairman of Hyundai Engineering & Construction Co.

Two of Mr. Chung's sons will remain in overall charge of 14 other companies



ANGER IN HONG KONG - Investors who lost their savings in the collapse of the brokerage house C.A. Pacific Securities trying to break past a police cordon outside the stock exchange Wednesday. About 50 people were demanding that they be reimbursed for losses they suffered when the house folded in January.

Gene Therapy: A New Business Map

By Lawrence M. Fisher New York Times Service

EVRY, France - Four years ago, Dr. Daniel Cohen dazzled the scientific world when his Paris lab roughed out the first comprehensive map of all burnan chromosomes. This year, be will complete a far more detailed map and attacbit to a tantalizing business proposition: using the map to predict the responses of individual patients to new drugs.

The proposition comes with a new buzzword, pharmacogenomics, and the potential to save pharmaceutical companies hundreds of millions of dollars at a clip. That is the amount they can speod developing a potential new drug, only to see it fail because of unexpected side effects or a poor response rate among patients.

Dr. Cobeo's company, Genset SA, believes his proposition can improve the odds of success, and reap tens of millions of dollars in fees for the service.

"It is very important to know what causes the side effects, or why 20 percent of patients do not respood to a drug," he said. "If we can predict that, we can predict what consequences that will bave oo the drug's market."

The process could also save mountains of money for health maintenance organizations, which could use it to identify who might, and might not, beoefit from a prescription.
Indeed, the prize is potentially so rich

at Mr. Cohen and his company, based in Evry, just south of Paris, are already facing stiff competition from several other biotechnology companies that are developing different techniques to

achieve the same predictive effect. And because the ramifications of pharmacogenomics for patient care are so broad. Genset and the others are also facing considerable controversy on a oumber of froots, ranging from the possible danger their techniques pose to ticklish issues of privacy to the potential for discrimination against people who are identified as genetically deficient.

Pharmacogenomics is both an extension of and a departure from "genomics," the premise behind the companies that have piggybacked on the Human Genome Project, the 15-year international effort to spell out each of the 3 billion letters in the human genetic code. The companies said they would find "disease genes," which would provide ideal tar-

See GENSET, Page 15

Insurers Set To Create U.K. Giant

Compiled by Our Staff From Disputcher

LONDON - Commercial Union PLC said Wednesday it would buy General Accident PLC for £6.6 billion (\$10.8 billioo), creating the secondbiggest insurer in Britain.

The new company would be called CGU and would have a combined stock valuacion of about £14.6 billion.

Deregulation in the life-insurance market, the restructuring of global welfare laws and the need to offset difficult conditions in the nonlife insurance business, where rates bave been falling fast, all played a part in the planned deal, the companies said. About 5,000 jobs are to be cut from the combined company's staff of 53,000, helping produce cost savings of at least £225 millioo (\$368.6) million) within two years, they said.

Commercial Unioo shareholders would hold 53.6 percent of the new company, with General Accident shareholders controlling the rest.

The deal comes amid rapid consolidation among insurers as they struggle for market share. Allianz AG of Germany is taking over Assurances Generales de France SA for \$10 billion to become the largest insurer in Europe.

"This should bring them into the top five in Europe," said Eamoo Flanagan, a Charterhouse Tilney Securities analyst. "The two companies are both good, but in terms of worldwide or even Europe, they were oot big players."

Analysts said they believe the merged

business would be in a stronger position to acquire large cootracts, But shares in both companies slipped as the market digested the news, amid coocerns that the deal may encounter regulatory hurdles and disappointment with the details of the deal after a strong recent rise in the shares. The announcement came little more

than 24 bours after SmithKline Beecham PLC and Glaxo Wellcome PLC, Britain's two largest drug companies, abandoned their plans for a merger.

Commercial Union closed 24 pence lower at £11.04, and General Accident fell 80 to £13.64.

With a market value of £14.8 billion, CGU would be Britain's second-largest insurer after Prudential Corp., which is valued at £17.33 billion.

(AP, Bloomberg, Reuters)

Waterstone's Heads to EMI's Empire

from W. H. Smith PLC for £300 mil-years of business. lion (\$494.2 million).

al called HMV Media Group PLC. The venture will take over EMI's 271 HMV music stores and the 78-store Dillons book chain, combining them with 104 Waterstone's shops. EMI said HMV Media

could be sold or floated on the stock market in the future, allowing EMI to leave retailing and focus on its core music business.

of retail and focus oo its core business of actually publishing and selling music." said Anthony de Larrinaga, an analyst at Panmure Gordoo. "You don't need to have vertical iotegration to correct the control the correct the same to collect the price of a floation that it had originally the correct the same to collect the price of a floation that it had originally to control the retail outlet, particularly planned. now that there is considerable more competition in music retailing than

retake control of the book chain he founded in 1981 and sold to Smith eight years later, is part of Smith's

second reorganization in two years. W.H. Smith, Britain's largest book of EMI Music head Jim Fifield. retailer, faces stiff competitioo from

Wednesday to buy the year, W. H. Smith took reorganization charges that gave it its first loss in 204

Shares in EMI and W. H. Smith rose Smith will sell the unit to a joint on news of the deal. EMI closed up 12 venture formed by EMI and the investment company Advent Internation-gained 5 to 473.5.

"Smith got a very good price," said
William Cullum, analyst at Paribas
Capital Markets. "While selling Waterstone's doesn't resolve difficulties

"Smith got a very good price," said
William Cullum, analyst at Paribas

Mr. Fifield, wbo had been at EMI
Music since 1988, seemed to drop out

Selling Waterstone's gives W. H. Smith needed cash — and choices, analysts say.

This will allow EMI to divest itself at the core chain, it gives Smith cash,

The sale, which will see HMV Mestrengths in books, newspapers, magazines and stationery," its chief executive, Richard Handover, said.

An EMI source said Sir Colin

veloping W. H. Smith as a midmarker popular specialist retailer with core

"We can now concentrate on de-

The deal comes as EMI scrambles to

find a chief executive after its board unexpectedly blocked the promotion

Completed by One Staff From Desputches

Supermarkets selling books and from Southgate would stay on as executive rivals such as Books Etc., a unit of the chairman after changing his mind wrapped up a long-awaited U.S.-based chain Borders Inc. Last about moving to a nonexecutive role. EMI declined to comment, having

confirmed Friday that Sir Colin would remain as executive chairman and Mr. Fifield would continue as bead of EMI

The management problems are partly rooted in the aftermath of EMI's

of day-to-day management, clearing the way for the ascendancy of Ken Berry, who is now president of EMI Recorded Music.

In a succession plan anoounced in May, Mr. Fifield, whose contract is up in mid-1999, was removed from the succession line, and Mr. Berry was to replace him. In November, the management strategy shifted. Sir Colin decided effectively to take early retirement, reinstating Mr. Fifield as his heir.

It was unclear what prompted the Last week, there was yet another turnaround. EMI's board apparently decided that it was uncomfortable giving so much power to Mr. Fifield, who would have the publishing and music arms of EMI reporting directly to him. Neither Sir Colio nor Mr. Fifield

was available for comment. (Reuters, Bloomberg, NYT)

Software Winner



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McLaren is one of the winningest teams in Formula One history. Since 1966, McLaren has won seven

Constructor's World Championships, nine Driver's World Championships and more than 100 Grands Prix. Not to mention three Indianapolis 500 wins, the LeMans 24-hour endurance race and five consecutive Can-Am sports car titles

West O mig West McLaren Mercedes

"To win consistently, you have to have the best. That's why we've teamed up with Computer Associates," says Ron Dennis, Managing Director for McLaren International. "Processing our engine and race data efficiently and intelligently is crucial and CA is helping us approach it in an entirely new manner."

Under a technology partnership. the West McLaren Mercedes Formula One Team and CA are developing an innovative new solution that gives the racing team's engineers the ability to easily assess and analyze the Formula car's performance data.

Built around CA's Unicenter® TNG". the program can monitor the telemetry data that the race car transmits to the pits while it's racing. Everything from throttle response to brake pressure to even the G-forces exerted on a driver. TNG then displays the data through its award-winning 3-D, Real World Interface ...

"I have a favorite saying, that is, to come in second is to be the first of the losers." says Ron Dennis. "At McLaren we're interested only in winning and we associate ourselves only with winning companies. With Computer Associates and McLaren, we have two winning companies sharing a common goal and common partnership."

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

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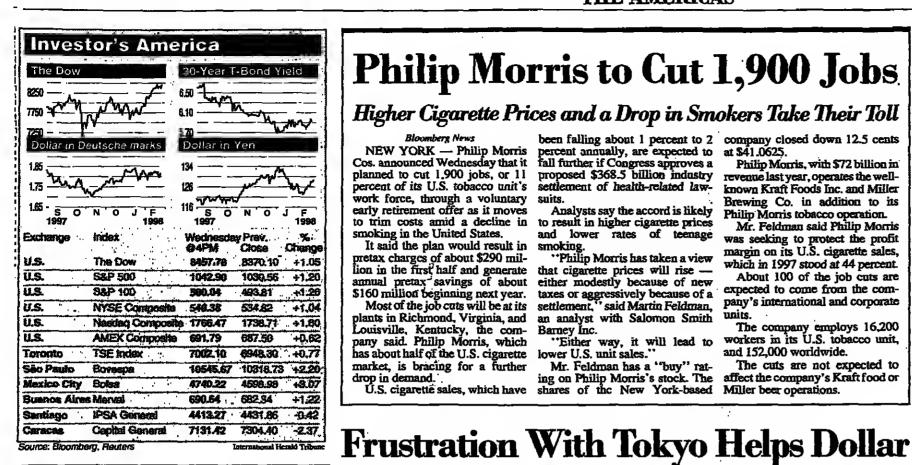
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THE AMERICAS



Very briefly:

- Boeing Co. plans to tie management pay more closely to its stock performance to try to make top executives more accountable for the aerospace company's financial performance. Abitibi-Consolidated Inc., the world's largest newsprint producer, made an unsolicited \$1.4 billion takeover bid for a rival, Avenor Inc., which called it "grossly inadequate."
- Eight New York Stock Exchange floor brokers, the brokerage concern Oakford Corp. and two of its executives were charged with making more than \$11.1 million from illegal trading for their personal profit on the NYSE floor, the Securities and Exchange Commission said.
- · Computer Associates International Inc. indicated to Computer Sciences Corp. shareholders that it may be willing to raise its takeover offer by \$6 a share, to \$114, if the company negotiates promptly.
- Americans spent an average of \$22,400 on new vehicles last year, a 3 percent increase from 1996, the National Automobile Dealers Association said.

 Bloomberg, AP

Dow Jones Markets Sale Discussed

The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Dow Jones & Co. is negotiating to sell its financial-information service to a rival, Bridge Information Systems Inc., industry sources said Wednesday, A deal could be announced within a few weeks, the sources said.

The sale of Dow Jones Markets has been widely expected since the company scaled back a \$650 million plan to revamp the service, which has been unable to keep up with competitors. The struggles at the service have caused losses at Dow Jones and put top management under pressure.

A possible purchase price for Dow Jones Markets was not disclosed by people familiar with the talks, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Reports have put Bridge's offer at anywhere between \$300 million and \$550 million.

AMEX

The 300 most traded stocks of the day.

Philip Morris to Cut 1,900 Jobs

Higher Cigarette Prices and a Drop in Smokers Take Their Toll

NEW YORK — Philip Morris
Cos. announced Wednesday that it

fall further if Congress approves a

Philip Mo planned to cut 1,900 jobs, or 11 percent of its U.S. tobacco unit's settlement of health-related lawwork force, through a voluntary suits. early retirement offer as it moves

Analysts say the accord is likely
to trim costs amid a decline in to result in higher cigarette prices early retirement offer as it moves smoking in the United States.

noking in the United States.

It said the plan would result in smoking.

"Philip Morris has taken a view "Philip Morris has taken a view will rise pretax charges of about \$290 mil-\$160 million beginning next year.

plants in Richmond, Virginia, and Louisville, Kentucky, the company said. Philip Morris, which has about half of the U.S. cigarette market, is bracing for a further

Ú.S. cigaretté sales, which have

NEW YORK - The dollar rose

against the yen Wednesday amid on-

going frustration with Japan's efforts

at stimulating its weak economy, and

it gained against European curren-

cies on indications that German in-

terest rates would not head higher.

right now," said John Hanly, man-

ager of foreign exchange at Bank

Austria in New York. "Interest-rate

governing Liberal Democratic Party

said it was considering yet another

economic stimulus package in the

wake of strong requests made at a weekend meeting of finance officials of the Group of Seven industrialized

nations. But traders expressed doubt

truly stimulative, such as new gov-

tween now and the end of the fiscal

year" on March 31, said a chief

"They'll be promising a lot be-

ernment spending or tax cuts.

In Japan, a senior official of the

differentials favor it.'

"The dollar has a lot going for it

proposed \$368.5 billion industry

lion in the first half and generate that cigarette prices will rise — annual pretax savings of about either modestly because of new taxes or aggressively because of a Most of the job cuts will be at its settlement," said Martin Feldman, an analyst with Salomon Smith Barney Inc.

"Either way, it will lead to lower U.S. unit sales." Mr. Feldman has a "buy"

come up with nothing."
Remarks by U.S. Treasury Sec-

retary Robert Rubin, who reiterated

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Washington's unhappiness with

Tokyo's economic steps so far, also

In late trading, the dollar was at

The dollar rose against the Deut-

sche mark, meanwhile, after a report

showed Western Germany's infla-

tion rate at a 10-year low, reinforcing

no way rates are going higher," said

"For continental Europe, there's

would not increase interest rates,

Karl Halligan of CIC Bank.

128.625 yen, compared with

nudged the dollar higher.

127.975 yen on Tnesday.

that the talk would yield anything expectations that the Bundesbank

valuation purposes.

ing on Philip Morris's stock. The affect the company's Kraft food or shares of the New York-based Miller beer operations.

dealer at a New York City money center bank. "They want dollar-yen lower, the Nikkei higher, for re-

But, he added, "They're going to in the foreseeable future.

been falling about 1 percent to 2 company closed down 12.5 cents

Philip Morris, with \$72 billion in revenue last year, operates the wellknown Kraft Foods Inc. and Miller Brewing Co. in addition to its Philip Morris tobacco operation.

Mr. Feldman said Philip Morris was seeking to protect the profit margin on its U.S. cigarette sales, which in 1997 stood at 44 percent. About 100 of the job cuts are

pany's international and corporate The company employs 16,200 workers in its U.S. tobacco unit,

expected to come from the com-

and 152,000 worldwide. The cuts are not expected to

large satisfactory," adding that he saw no need to change German rates

The dollar rose to 1.8172 DM from 1.7971 DM, to 1.4683 Swiss

francs from 1.4507 francs and to

6.0940 French francs from 6.0240

francs. The pound fell to \$1.6427

rates could head higher before long

resurfaced after the Federal Reserve

Board chairman, Alan Greenspan,

told a Senate panel that while prices

remained tame, wage pressures could

Higher interest rates tend to ben-

efit a currency by increasing the re-

turn in investments in that currency.
"I'm a dollar bull," said John

predicted a rate increase in May.

'We keep seeing more evidence that

the fundamentals favor the dollar."

lead to inflation down the road.

Expectations that U.S. interest

from \$1.6507.

numoil, got a lift from comments from Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board.

In the second day of his semiannual congressional testimony, Mr. Greenspan told members of the Senate that he was less worried now than six months ago about Japan's economic problems. The effect of Asia's crisis on the U.S. economy

On Tnesday, Mr. Greenspan said the outlook was uncertain, a comment that helped send stocks and bonds lower.

Microsoft led the tech stocks up. closing up 21/8 to 85. Citicorp led the bank issues, gaining 11/8 to close at

In the Treasury bond market, the price of the benchmark 30-year issue rose 19/32 point to 102 28/32, taking the yield down to 5.92 per-

Mr. Greenspan signaled that the Coughtery of MMS in London, who central bank would not soon cut interest rates, which normally weighs on bond prices. But with inflation running at its lowest rate in (Market News, Bloomberg) a decade, some investors said bond

> Yields near 6 percent present 'a buying opportunity," said David Jallits, a bond manager at Strategic

Tuesday caused by the canceled mer-ger of Glaxo Wellcome and Smith-Kline Beecham. Glaxo's American 3% to 63%. Eli Lilly rose 1 1/16 to 65.

and Pfizer rose % to 88%.

Shares Hit Records On Greenspan Talk

A Second Look at Asia Lifts Markets

NEW YORK - Technology and banking stocks led stocks to record levels Wednesday, helping the market recover from another short-lived

flurry of profit-taking.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 87.68 points higher at a record 8,457.78, while the Standard & Poor's 500 index ended 12.34 points higher at 1,042.90, also a record. Gaining issues outnumbered losing ones by a 2-to-1 ratio on the New

The technology heavy Nasdaq composite index closed 27.76 points higher at a record 1,766.47.

York Stock Exchange.

Technology and banking sectors, which were hard-hit in recent months

U.S. STOCKS

amid the worst of the Asian economic

will be measurable but not over-whelming, he said.

cent from 5.96 percent Tuesday.

yields were attractive. U.S. High Court Backs Banks vs. Credit Unions

Fixed Income LP. Drug stocks rebounded from losses

depositary receipts rose 1 11/16 to 57 3/16, and SmithKline's ADRs rose

Semiconductor equipment shares rose after an analyst at Hambrecht & Ouist said a long-term recovery in chip demand made it a good time to buy the stocks. Applied Materials rose 1% to 37%, Etec Systems rose 4% to 53%, and KLA-Tencor rose

· Spain and Pa Meet Deficit

Adjous Nay They Quality

33% to 45 5/16. But Intuit fell 31/2 to 461/4 after BT Alex. Brown downgraded the personal-finance software maker on concern its earnings in the coming half might be weak.

Circus Circus Enterprises rose 11/8 to 22 5/16 after the company. canceled several investor meetings, renewing speculation the casino

Yellow fell 5% to 201/2 after the freight company warned it would post weak first-quarter results because of customer concerns about a threatened strike that was averted with a tentative settlement Feb. 8.;

Yellow said some shippers were waiting for member ratification before redirecting their business back from nonunion carriers. (AP, Reuters, Bloombers)

Drugmaker's Warning On Profit Shortfall Sends Stock Skidding

SAN DIEGO - The stock of Dara Pharmaceuticals Inc. tumbled Wednesday as the company warned that profit would be well short of expectations this year because sales of antibiotics had been lower than expected and costs had risen because of an increase in its sales staff. Shares of the maker of respiratory

drugs fell 38 percent, or \$14.3125, to close at \$23.8125 after heavy trading. Dura said earnings would be about 35 percent below forecasts because the company's top-selling product, the antibiotic Ceclor CD, would miss its performance target this year. Dura also plans to expand its sales force to 450 from 270 by the end of the year as it prepares to start sales of its Spiros inhaler.

Spiros, a system for delivering drugs in lungs, awaits approval by the Food and Drug Administration. Dura said it expected to report

1998 earnings of 85 to 90 cents a share, below the \$1.39 average estimate of analysts surveyed by IBES International Inc. bestz. Feb. 15

Wednesday by upholding a ruling members from much smaller more than one group as long as each limiting the expansion of credit unions beyond their traditional base.

U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

preme Court gave banks a victory Federal Credit Union to bring in credit unions to include members of

The court's 5-4 ruling stems from

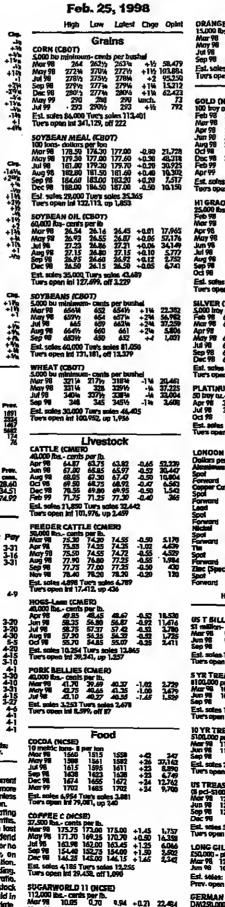
National Credit Union Administra-WASHINGTON - The U.S. Su- tion that allowed AT&T Family lenge the NCUA ruling that allowed groups, such as small employers and

a challenge to a 1982 decision by the ation trade group and five North unions posed unfair competition.

Carolina banks sped in 1990 to chalgroup was distinct. The banking industry complained

The American Bankers Associ- that the larger, tax-exempt credit

INTERNATIONAL FUTURES



EUROPE

Hit Records Spain and Portugal Meet Deficit Goals Kat Asia Lifts Market Nations Say They Qualify for the Euro Semiconductor And Staff From Dispusses Spain and Portugal meet the requirement to enter EMU." Mr. Rext

wiogs and to seafter an analystation of the record Quist said a long-term of the demand made name.

MADRID — Span and Wednesday their budget deficits in 1997 met the criteria for joining the single European currency, the euro, at its scheduled beginning next year.

Spain's deficit last year was 2.6 Standard & But Intuit fell 303 to 40 2010.

But Intuit fell 303 to 40 2010.

Alex. Brown downgrader

const. finance communication sonal finance software to concern its earnings man. in the New Circus Cucus Enicipie io 22 5/16 after the connected several investors Nasdag Lebramis

renewing speculation to Company might be acquire Yellow fell 5% to Mag BE NOT THE ent morra. freight company wanted Nest weak first-quarter Re 2225e of customer concerincatened strike that was FOCTOR SINCE with a tentative settlement COMPRESS Yellow said some stage. 2 Chairman ard. for redirecting their but January 1999.
Them nonunion carrier.

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CAME IN CAME

well below the 3 percent limit for qualifying for the euro and down from 4.4 percent in 1996, Economy

Minister Rodrigo Rato said. Portugal's deficit was 2.5 percent of GDP, Finance Minister Antonio Sousa Franco said, below the governmeot's target of 2.9 percent.

But Spain's public debt last year stood at 68.3 percent of GDP, above the standard of 60 percent set by the Maastricht treaty that established benchmarks for euro membership. "Portugal's debt was 61.99 percent of GDP. Data from 1997 are the basis for determining which countries will be part of the common currency in

Despite the level of public debt a criterion on which few prospective euro members are in compliance — Prime Minister Antonio Guterres of Portugal said the figures not only meant that Portugal could meet the formal entry requirements for the single currency but should dispel doubts that the country could main-

tain the required hudgetary rigor. "This was a result that exceeded expectations, including those of the government," Mr. Guterres said. 'So far we've always been able to beat our targets. That's the best

proof of sustainability. The fact that Portugal achieved the targets without recourse to tax increases also bolstered its credib-

ility, he said. announcement, the central bank cut tion," they said. key interest rates by 20 basis points. lowering its repurchase rate to 4.9 percent, its drain rate — used to absorb funds from the money market — to 4.6 percent and its emer-

gency lending rate to 6.6 percent. Germany's economics minister. Gueoter Rexrodt, said Tuesday that Spain and Portugal had met the membership criteria but that Italy's situation was less certain. On Wednesday, his ministry confirmed the

"It's clear to everyone that both

Spain and Portugal meet the requirements to enter EMU, 'Mr. Rexrodt said. He also said "the situation seems favorable" for Italy but that the data "need to be studied." Mr. Guterres said Wednesday that Italy should be allowed to join.

"If Italy meets the criteria, we see oo reason for it to be penalized," he (Reuters, Bloomberg) ■ EU Sees 'Small' Asia Effect

The European Union's annual economic report, adopted by the European Commission on Wednesday, said Asia's financial crisis could dull the EU's growth outlook, Reuters reported from Brussels.

"The financial turbulence in Asia

will lead to some reduction in eco-

nomic growth in the EU in 1998, but the adverse impact is likely to be rather small," the report said. It said the impact would be to cut about a quarter of a percentage point" from growth in 1998. The commission forecast last October that the EU economy would grow 3 percent in 1998. A revised forecast is due to be presented March 25,



PIRELLI CAMPAIGN - The Brazilian succer star Ronaldo in Milan on Wednesday with an ad to trumpet the Italian tire manufacturer's moves to invest \$230 million in Brazil. The ad mimies the statue of Jesus Christ that duminates Rio de Janeiro.

Europe to Promote Internet Trade

BRUSSELS - More than 100 European companies, trade bodies and local authorities pledged Wednesday to promote cooperation to remove obstacles to trading over the Internet or other networks.

"If electronic commerce is to Shortly after Mr. Sousa Franco's all preferable to external regula-

> The participants, including ABN-AMRO Bank, IBM Europe and British Telecommunications PLC, signed a memorandum of understanding on "open access to electronic commerce for small and medium-sized coterprises."

> They drafted guidelines calling for action to ensure that electroniccommerce systems could communicate with each other and to develop technical standards for on-line databases and search engines.

tect exchanges of legal documents, commerce on the global computer to ensure the security of payment network, The Washington Post resystems and to bulster user conported from Washington. fidence by addressing issues such as copyright and data protection.

The general impression is that people don't want legislation," said Jaap Kamp, a senior executive of low states to require Internet and flourisb, industry agreements, codes ABN-AMRO and chaimtan of the mail-order merchants to collect and f practice and self-regulation are group. "They want cross-border, il preferable to external regula- cross-national commerce to take discussing self-regulation that sum-

ulates confidence. The group said governments should play a role, however, by promoting and implementing European and global accords in areas such as telecommunications standards.

Appeal for Taxes on the Net

U.S. governors, worried about losing billions of dollars in tax revenue as Internet shopping becomes They also proposed action to pro- to expand the ability of states to tax taxing Internet access.

A resolution adopted at the final session of the National Governors' Association's midwinter meeting Tuesday called on Congress to alpay sales taxes even if they do not have a physical presence in the state

place and are fairly committed to to which the goods are being shipped. Currently, such businesses are oot required to collect state sales taxes if they do not operate in the destination state.

In return, the governors pledged to try to wipe out the welter of varying local sales taxes and enact a single rate within each state. They contend that uniform rates would make it easier for Internet and catalogue merchants to collect and remit the taxes. The governors also said more popular, have urged Congress they would support a prohibition on

High Low Close Prev.

Paris Utility Holds Talks With Havas On Takeover

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PARIS - Generale des Eaux SA said Wednesday it was negotiating to buy Havas SA, a move that would cost it about 26 billion francs (\$4.31 billion) and would turn the utility into

France's biggest media company. The boards of Generale des Eaux and Havas will discuss the takeover plans at a meeting March 9, the company, France's biggest water utility said.

Generale des Eaux already has a 30 percent stake in Havas.

The deal would be the second strategic move by Jean-Marie Messier, Generale des Eaux's chairman, to move the group from its traditional activities of water distribution, construction and property to telecommunications and media.

In January, Generale's unit Cegetel and Canal Plus SA -- Europe's biggest pay-television operator. which is partly owned by Havas signed a French Internet alliance with America Online Inc. and Germany's Bertelsmann AG, which own the Internet-service provider

AOL/CompuServe in Europe. Analysts said Generale des Eaux, which is pondering a name change, was likely to sell a number of Havas activities but hold onto the core me-

dia and television businesses. Havas Advertising, a 38-percent owned unit, and its fully owned travel agency Havas Tourism could be sold, as well as the telephone

directories publisher ODA. Havas is one of France's biggest publishers, with titles such as the Gault Millau food guides and

Larousse dictionaries. Havas shares rose 6.5 percent, or 29.20 francs, to close at 476.20. Generale des Eaux's shares rose 1 to

'A merger between Havas and Generale des Eaux would be logical," said Christian Chardin, a fund manager at Barclays Asset Management France.

"Havas is a sleeping beauty - it was pretty much hadly managed and

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its poteotial held back. Analysts expect Generale des Eaux to offer new shares or a combination of shares and cash for (Bloomberg, Reuters)



Very briefly:

• Courtaulds PLC's stock rose 15 percent, or 41 pence, to close at 312 pence (\$5.11) as the company announced plans it said would help shareholder value through a demerger and sales of various units.

· West German inflation remained tame in February at an annual rate of 1.1 percent, the same as in January, and French consumer prices rose 0.5 percent in January from a year earlier, reducing the annual inflation rate to its lowest level in

 Carrefour SA, the French retailer, reported a 14.7 percent rise in net attributable profit, to 3.58 billion francs (\$586.2 million), amid lower charges and a rebound in spending.

• The Netherlands' gross domestic product grew 3.3 percent in 1997 from the previous year, according to provisional figures. It rose by the same rate in 1996.

· Sabena, the Belgian flag carrier, said it had chosen ecologically advanced eogines from CFM International, a joint venture of Geoeral Electric Corp. and Snecma of France, for its fleet of 34 Airbus A320 planes that will start to come into service next year.

· Standard Chartered PLC said second-half oet income rose a better-than-expected 1,3 percent, to £261 million, sending the bank's shares up 17 perceot, or 127 pence, to 882 pence, as higher income offset increased provisions for troubled Asian loans.

 VIAG AG's 1997 preliminary operating profit rose more than 15 percent, to 2.8 billion Deutsche marks (\$1.54 billioo), slightly above expectations, on cost-cutting at its energy

division and the acquisition of a new chemicals business. · South Korea said it would allow Societe Generale Securities Co. of France to establish a branch office in Seoul.

• Ryanair Holdings PLC, an Irish low-cost carrier, plans to order as many as 25 short-haul jets from Boeing Co. or Airhus Industries in the next few weeks. Bloomberg, Reuters, AP

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Proces as of 3 00 P.M. New York time

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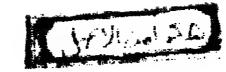
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ASIA/PACIFIC Troubled Malaysia to Allow Its Chinese to Chip In

By Joseph Kahn New York Times Service

High Long Story

BANGKOK — The Asian economic crisis has compelled Malay sia to relax temporarily its policy of putting indigenous Malays ahead of its ethnic Chinese, a 25 year-old policy that had been considered sac-

Officials in Kuala Lumpur will allow people of Chinese background who live in Malaysia to bail out Malay-controlled conglomerates, Dairn Zainuddin, the government's top economic adviser, said

"If there are groups that are prepared to buy, the government is not going to interfere," he said.

Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad said Wednesday that the relaxation was a temporary measure to revive troubled companies, the national Bernama news agency said.

[Mr. Mahathir also suggested that Malaysia may allow foreigners to buy a larger slice of its industries, ownership of local banks. such as banking and construction.

Agence France-Presse

will cut its work force by 36 percent

to try to survive the financial crisis

in Asia, union members said Wed-

The airline said in a statement that

it was cutting its work force and

reviewing global operations to stem

further losses" because of the "re-

It did not say how many jobs

would be cut, and its spokesmen

gional economic crisis."

MANILA — Philippine Airlines

destroyed completely."

The move contravenes a central feature of the Malaysian economic model, an aggressive policy intended to create a wealthy Malay elite that could challenge the financial pre-eminence of overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia.

The policy is popular in Malaysia. where indigenous Malays dominate the population but trail ethnic Chinese in economic power. Any easing of the policy is bound to be sharply debated.

But the economic crisis has Indonesia's national car project. which was controlled by a son of President Suharto, South Kurea's promises of tifetime job sceurity and laws in Thailand forhidding foreign

Philippine Air Plans Big Labor Cut

employees Tuesday and announced

members of the administrative staff

would be cut first, in March, and

other workers would be dismissed in

would be cut, and its spokesmen told that layoffs at the engineering ning losses since its 1993-1994 (i-declined to elaborate on the plan. But

ficials said employees were told that the country.

force of more than 13,000.

Although Malaysia has not ful-

union officials said the airline's vice—and be based on the ''last m, first

a 36 percent reduction in the work our assessment, this is the best way

a strike over the dismissals. Its of- the employees, the riding public and

April. They also said they had been ended in March 1997, has been run-

The union said it had not ruled out—are in for the good of the company,

president, Manolo Aquino, met with out" seniority principle.

Bloomberg News reported.

["We're facing a problem here from the International Monetary and stocktoday." the prime minister vaid. Fund, it has seen currency and stock-"It's better to save some than be price plunges similar to those in other eigners. Asian countries, and many of its lead-

ing firms are close to bankruptcy.

This is another example of a country willing to sell its crown jew-Dunald Hanna, regional economist nomic policy. In 1970, Malays for Goldman, Sachs & Co. "Malays owned vinually no shares in leading sia is now showing the kind of flexibility we see around the region."

Malaysia's program has been known as the New Economic Policy. Adopted in 1971 after a series of unti-Chinese riots, the policy guarantees preferences to ethnic Malays, called Buniputrus, when privatizing forced Southeast Asian countries to state companies or awarding hig sacrifice programs and policies once contracts for public facilities and considered unassailable, including services. It also gives preferential treatment to Malays in state bank luans, property sales, university admissions and equity ownership.

Ethnic Chinese make up roughly 3lt percent of Malaysia's population but own 45 percent of the shares listed on the Kuala Lumpur ex-

The airline's statement said, "In

to address the critical situation we

The airline, which had an op-

erating loss of 2.5 hillion pesos (\$75.8 nullion) in the year that

lowed other Asians in seeking help change, compared with the 20 per-35 percent is mostly owned by for-

Still, those figures show a redistribution of wealth toward ethnic Malays in roughly the quarter-century since the government began els' to make it through the crisis, said favoring them as part of its ecoowned vinually no shares in leading companies.

Several of the Malay controlled conglomerates created by the policy are among those hardest hit in the Asian downtum, struggling to pay debts amassed during a decade-long privatization boom.

To help relieve that debt burden, cent held by Malays. The remaining the government is prepared to allow ethnic Chinese to buy into troubled conglomerates, Mr. Daim said.

Asked whether this meant that its Chinese community could acquire big stakes in Malay companies with solid government ties such as Malaysian Airlines, Mr. Daim replied. Why not?"

He ruled out the possibility of allowing foreign companies the same right immediately. Such liberalization will be considered later. the head of the new National Economic Action Council said.

Foreign ownership is now limited to 30 percent in most sectors.

A Search Engine Is Unveiled to Ply China Cyber-Sites

BEIJING - Hoping to eash in on China's Internet boom, a locally based company introduced the first major guide Wednesday for exploring Chinese sites on the global computer network.

The company. Internet Technologies China, unveiled a search users in China swelled tenfold last engine for the Chinese portion of the World Wide Web called Sohoo, or "Search Fox" in English (http://www.sohoo.com.en).

The absence of a powerful Chinese pased search engine has made it nearly impossible for users to sift through the tens of thousands of Chinese-language sites.

The number of personal com-



year, from a negligible 60,000 to more than 600,000.

Search engines are among the leading success stories of Internet companies in the world today," Mr. Zhang said. Sohoo was developed with

\$225,000 in start-up capital raised by Nicholas Negroponte, cofounder of Wired magazine, and puters in China is jumping 30 will generate revenue with adver-percent a year, double the world growth rate. The ranks of Internet end of this year, Mr. Zhang said.

currency and economic turmoil. Gross domestic product is expected to grow 2.5 percent to 4.5 percent this year, the slowest rate since 1986, rather than the 5 percent to 7 percent

· Toshiba Corp., Japan's third-largest computer chipmaker, said it would spend 10 billion ven (\$77.9 million) to build a factory to quadruple output of next-generation memory chips

Singapore towered its economic growth forecast for 1998,

reflecting slower husiness expansion because of the region's

Investor's Asia

Index

Hang Seng

Straits Times

All Ordinaries

Composite Index

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 Victor Co. of Japan lowered its annual profit outlook because of an estimated 7 p cent decline in sales of electronic devices

and extraordinary losses related to closings of overseas factories. The company cut its pretax profit forecast 40 percent, to 8, t billion ven from 13.6 billion ven. Daiet Inc. will sell properties valued at 210 billion yen to try

to cut debt. The company, Japan's largest supermarket-chain operator, said it planned to reduce its group debt of about 2.6 trillion yen by I trillion yen in the next three years. •Perng Fai-nan, a banker known for his prowess in the

currency market and slow approach to financial reform, was

named governor of Taiwan's central bank, succeeding Sheu Yuan-dong, who was killed in a plane crash. • Toyota Motor Corp. plans to spend 30 billion yen to buy back as many as 8 million of its shares; the Japanese automaker

did not say when it would make the share repurchases. •Industrial & Commercial Bank of China and Bank of East Asia Ltd. of Hong Kong jointly acquired an 85 percent stake in the Asian securities business of National Westminster Bank PLC. AFP, Bloomberg, Reuters

Japan Officials Send Conflicting Signals

TOKYO -- The governing party is preparing to take further action to stimulate Japan's stagnant economy, a senior official said Wednesday, even as a top Finance Ming an official said more for further economic measures." measures were not necessary.

Takashi Kosugi, deputy chair-man of the Liberal Democratic affairs, told Parliament that Japan ness organization Keidanren that But Eisuke Sakakibara, deputy spending.

Party's policy research council, had rejected calls by the Intertold leaders of the influential busi- national Monetary Fund for further fiscal-stimulus measures. The the party would "start preparing Group of Seven suggested last weekend that Tokyo expand its (AFP, AP, Reuters)

Siam Cement Posts '97 Loss

Agence France Presse. BANGKOK - Thalland's largest

conglomerate, Siam Cement PLC, said Wednesday it had a loss last year because of the plunging baht.

The loss, which was higher than analysts or Siam Cement had excompany's history of more than billion baht in 1996.

eight decades," its president, Chumpol NaLamliang, said.

Without foreign-exchange losses, the company said, it would have had of 52.6 billion baht (\$1.18 billion) a net profit of 3.7 billion baht, compared with 6.8 billion baht in 1996. Total consolidated liabilities for 1997 were 269.1 billion baht, the pected, was "imprecedented in the company said, compared with 138.5

GENSET: Drawing Up a Map of the Brave New Business of Gene Therapy

the pharmaceutical companies have the most money at risk." said Randal Scott, president and chief scientific officer of one of Dr. Cohen's competitors, Incyte Pharmaceuticals Inc., of Palo Alto, California. Dr. Cohen and other pro-

ponents of pharmacogenomics say it will limit patients' exposure to drugs that do them no good or do them harm, and reduce the bealth or dangerous

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Continued on Page

MODEL LINK

gets for drug discovery, but they are all still many years away from a big payoff.

groups with specific needs.
But naysayers abound.
Competing scientists say they

new drugs to less genetically

ventions, I would be very careful. There is the potential

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Continued from Page 11 er clinical trials. Drugs could stage for a new drug. Phar- good match for the therapy. even be customized for sub- macogenomics is "a superfi-But naysayers abound, more you look at it, the less Competing scientists say they likely it is to work," he said. \$22.5 million for the analysis 1996, giving the once-ob-

By contrast, pharmacogedoubt the process will work in the real world, in part because velopment that can be emitted in would involve DNA analysis have no problem with the equity investment in the combination of one unnamed drug. Abbout scure company an instant lead also made a \$20 million in this category of genomics.

But lack of a map has not ployed straightaway on of each patient. Patient advo- premise of pharmacogenomexisting compounds that are cates worry that insurers will ics, but they await data to already believed to have ther- use this arsenal of data to deny evaluate the results.

apeutic value.

The lure of making big money sooner rather than later is drawing many of the older "genomics" companies into a scramble to make ir mark in the new field.

"We are moving genomics way from research to where the pharmaceutical companies the pharmaceutical companies the pharmaceutical companies the pharmaceutical companies." Smithkline Beecham PLC, the british drug giant, formed a joint venture company, Diadoxus, to develop and proposition compelling, allowing the proposition compelling, allowing giant, formed a joint venture company, Diadoxus, to develop and proposition compelling, allowing giant, formed a joint venture company, Diadoxus, to develop and proposition compelling, allowing giant, formed a joint venture company, Diadoxus, to develop and proposition compelling, allowing giant, formed a joint venture company, Diadoxus, to develop and proposition between drug response able to target drugs to people, instead of using broad-specture would be able to target drugs and that we would be able to target drugs, and that we would be able to target drugs and the genomics and genetically and the genomics is pragmatic: The drug and his group and find the proposition compelling, allowing proposition compelling, allowing giant, formed a joint venture company, Diadoxus, to develop and proposition between drug response able to target drugs to people, instead of using broad-spectives had inflated budgets and duce gene-based diagnostic products. And in January, Incompany that puts DNA on silicon constitute of the British drug giant, formed a joint venture company, Diadoxus, to develop and proposition compelling, allowing the productive and the genes and duce gene-based diagnostic products. And in January, Incompany that puts DNA on silicon constitute of the British drug giant, formed a joint venture company. Dr. Cohen said the correlation between drug response and genetic make the productive shad inflated budgets and duce gene-based diagnostic products. And in January, Incompany that puts DNA on silicon to levels," said Mark Rothstein, gets," said Dr. Cohen. director of the Health Law and Policy Institute at the University of Houston. 'But where Dr. Cohen is chief ge
Instead of looking for tarthat his group is completing. No one else has such a detailed map, and there is little chro-

when you start talking about nomic officer, entered a partsubpopulations screened for nership last year with Abbott sential to creating such a map. specific pharmaceutical inter- Laboratories Inc., of Abbott Park, Illinois, to provide pharmacogenomics analysis for stigmatization of individuals and groups."

One outspoken critic is William Haseltine, chairman and pharmacogenomics analysis working on the map, said Dr. Cohen, estimating its eventual cost at close to \$40 million. "You cannot improvise on genomics capabilities, while this scale. Nobody else claims care system's costs for inef- chief executive of Human Abbots will develop genebased diagnostic kits that products. For drug makers, pharmacogenomics could allow smaller, faster and cheap-

To date, only Abbott has Paris. After the government cially attractive idea, but the signed on for Genset's ser- money dried up. he brought vice, agreeing to pay up to the program to Genset in they have met with Dr. Cohen

high-resolution genome map

they will do mapping."

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Wal-Mart Sued By Lippo Group Polymorphisme Humain, in

Businglying Arms

JAKARTA - Lippo Group said Wednesday that it had filed suit against Wal-Mart Stores Inc. for \$100 mil-lion, charging that the U.S. department-store operator had illegally pocketed money

from their joint venture.

The suit, filed in the West

had no immediate comment on the charges.

INTERMARKET FUND

69, route d'Esch, L-1470 Luxembourg

Notice is hereby given that the Extraordinary General Meeting of shareholders shall be held at the registered office on March 6, 1998 at 3:00 p.m. for the purpose of considering the following agenda:

To receive the report of the liquidator.

To appoint an auditor to the liquidation in accordance with article 151, of the law on

Shareholders are advised that at this Meeting, no quorum is required and the decision will be passed by a simple majority of the shares represented at the meeting.

In order to attend the meeting of INTERMARKET FUND, the owners of bearer shares will have to deposit their shares five clear days before the Meeting at the registered office of the Company.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

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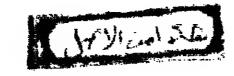
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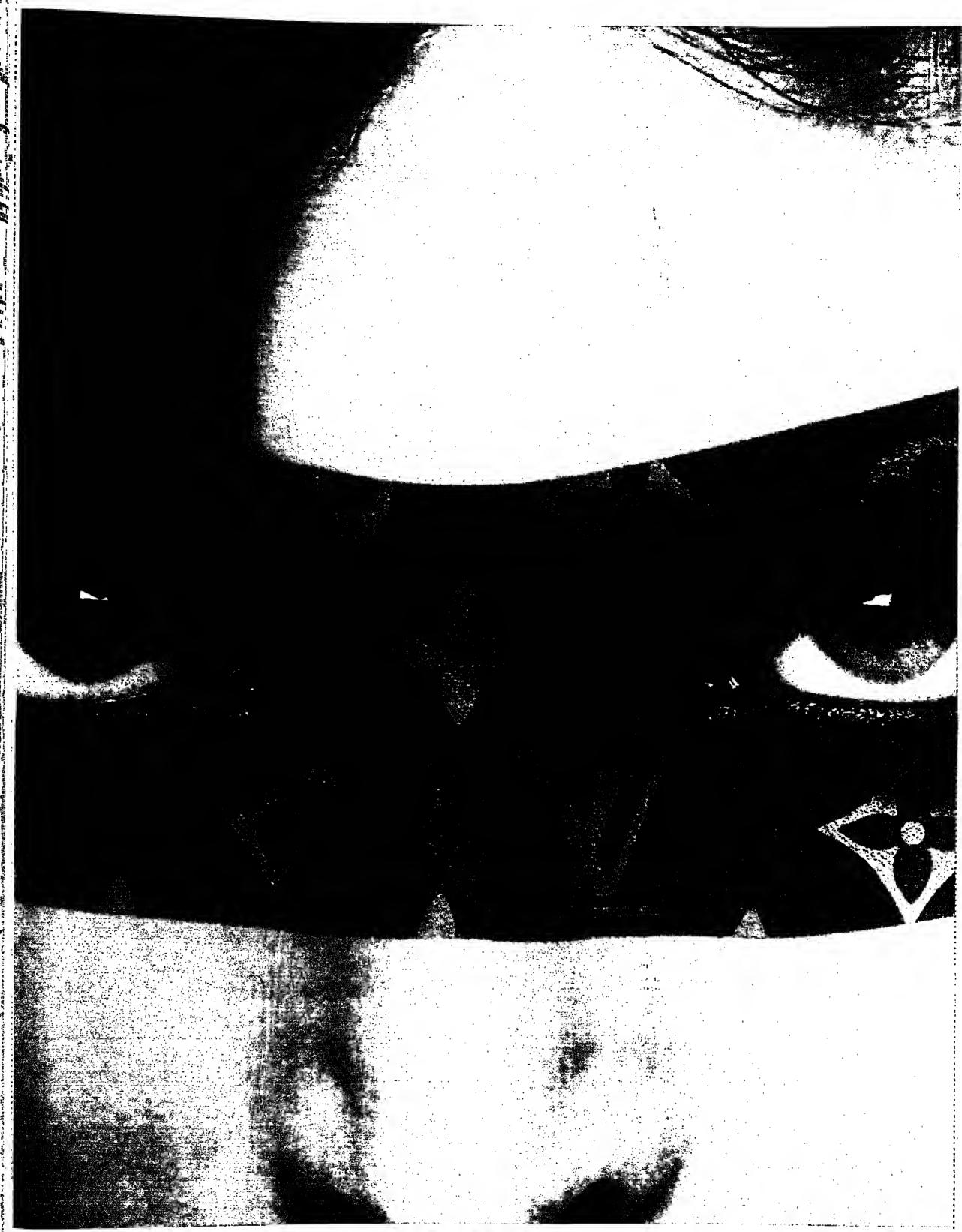
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Nature in its truest form.

This is the original Ricolo Swiss Herb Candy – its shape and ingredients

have remained unchanged far 40 years. The autside is raugh and edged
like hewn rock. The inside deliciously mild and pleasant. Right fram the beginning

we have kept fallowing the same traditional recipe with its blend of 13 precious

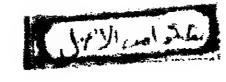
Swiss herbs to give you and your throat the saathing pleasures of Ricolo.



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INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1998 PAGE 17 Wednesday's 4 P.M. 13 Storen 18gh Low Stora The 1,000 most traded National Market securities Day Yid PE 1900 Hogh Low Liches City :]#anfh High Law 2bolk Charles FE 132 High Low Labor Chape High Link Stock On Yie PE 1005 High Line Lines Chipe ON YIN PE 1365 high Leve Level Chiga The County of th in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year. Selection of the select tisedety - antoingue chertes atherestations at the process of the state of the stat CHARLES CONTROL OF SECTION OF THE CONTROL OF THE SECTION OF THE SE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF TH Friendrickerschaft. Process of the control of the contro The state of the s Can The Cartes and the State of 《中国》中的《中国》中 George Committee The second secon A TEGERAL AND A TAMES TO FEEL TO SEE THE SEE T Div Yild PE 1805 High Line Listed Cope 14 COURT PROCESS AND A COURT OF THE PROCESS AND yandaya ka anaka ka tilan ka anaka ka anaka ka anaka na manaka ka anaka ka anaka ka anaka ka anaka anaka ka ana Anaka anaka ka anaka ka anaka ka anaka ka anaka anaka ka anaka ka anaka ka anaka ka anaka anaka anaka anaka an Sound State of the AND FORESTATION AND THE STATE OF THE STATE O die Tres McC supplied of the Control 74 13 ZĪ FOURTH POSSESSES AND PROCESSES in of her the medicinal state and to the section of CARLY TAKEN THE PROPERTY OF TH 17. 8

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Herald Eribune

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1998

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Ivanisevic Crumbles

TENNIS Wayne Ferreira, ranked No. 47 in the world, took 64 minutes to beat Goran Ivanisevic, ranked 16th, by 6-2, 6-4, in the second round of the London indoor tournament. Ivanisevic, who served 11 donble faults, said it was "one of the worst matches I've ever played indoors.

Ferreira dropped one point on his own serve a first set that lasted 19 minutes and broke his opponent immediately in the second. (Reuters)

 Xavier Malisse nearly turned his professional debut into a major upset, pushing Pete Sampras to three sets before the world's No. 1ranked player prevailed, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5, in the Advanta Championships in Philadelphia on Tuesday.

Malisse, 17, of Belgium, was ranked 851st on the ATP Tour computer when he came through qual-

ifying.
"I didn't know what his favorite shots were, and it took me awhile to figure them out," said Sampras.
Malisse broke Sampras' serve in

the first game, then won the first set by taking 12 of 13 points in the final



Marc Rosset playing Andrew Richardson Wednesday in Loudon, Rosset withdrew hurt.

Oilers Can Move Again

FOOTBALL Bud Adams, the owner of the Tennessee Oilers, has agreed to pay \$1.2 million to Memphis to get out of the contract to play a second season at the Liberty Bowl. That leaves the team free to negotiate a deal to play next season in Nashville. A new 67,000-seat for the 1999 season.

Vanderbilt University's 41,448seat stadium is the team's likely option. The Oilers averaged an NFL-low 28,028 fans the Liberty Bowl last year, their temporary home after abandoning Houstoo in favor of Nashville.

Greene Outruns Bailey

ATHLETICS Maurice Greene, the world champioo, confirmed his status as the top 100-meter runner in the world with a coovincing victory over Donovan Bailey, the Olympic champion, in a meet in Melbourne on Wednesday. Greene, an American, was timed in 10.06

Soccer Club In England **Bought for** £30 Million

LONDON — Mark Goldberg, a computer industry millionaire, said Wednesday that he had bought Crystal Palace, the English Premier League club, from its chairman, Ron Noades.

Goldberg, the managing director of the London-based computer company MSB, also said that Juventus, the Italian champion, would take a 10 percent stake in the south London club. Juventus did not immediately confirm this.

The takeover was reportedly worth £30 million (\$49.5 million).

Crystal Palace is in the bottom three in the Premiership and, if it cannot improve its posicion, will be relegated to the first division at the eod of the sea-

Goldberg also said that he intended to hire Terry Venables, the former coach of England, as manager. On Wednesday afternoon, Steve Coppell, the manager, said he had agreed to resign when a replacement was found. He will then become "development director of football" at the club.

"Steve will help implement the Ju-venms model at Crystal Palace," Gold-

Juventus will be technical directors for football," Goldberg said. "They have a formula which has been proveo over many years to optimize the experience and expertise of the playing staff."

Noades will continue to run the club until the completion of the takeover, "on or before October 1998."

The new owner signed Sasa Curcic, a midfielder, from Aston Villa for £1 million on Wednesday.

• Aston Villa oo Wednesday appoin-

ted John Gregory, a former player and coach at the club, as successor to Brian Little, who resigned as manager on Tuesday.



Benedict McCarthy, right, of South Africa shooting while watched by the Congolese defender Kibonge Selenge.

McCarthy Saves African Champion

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatcher

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso - Benedict McCarthy scored deep in extra time Wednesday to earn South Africa, the defending champion, a 2-I victory over Congo and a place in the final of the African Nations' Cup. Keve Bembuana gave Coogo the lead

after 48 minutes. Bembuana had replaced Congo's leading striker Tondelua Mbuilua at halftime. Mc-Carthy equalized after 59 minutes with a swerving shot, then won the semifinal by drilling a close-range shot past Nkweni Mayala with seven minutes of extra time left.

McCarthy, a 20-year-old striker f

the top scorer in the tournament with

In extra time, the teams tired in the 30-degree ceotigrade (86-degree-Fahr

SOCCER

enheit) heat. Bembuana spurned several chances before McCarthy struck. South Africa will meet either Burkina

Faso or Egypt who were playing later on (AFP, Reuters). Wednesday. ■ UEFA Replaces Referee

Alarmed by press speculation that a

referee and linesmen for a Cup Winners Cup game were given VIP treatment by body of European soccer, decided Wednesday to replace them. The Associated Press reported from Nyon, Switzer-Leif Sundell, a Swedish referee, and

his linesmeo were to officiate at the quarterfinal next week between Real Betis of Seville and Chelsea. But the trio went to see Betis play Espanyol in the Spanish league Sunday.

They were filmed sitting in the VIP area by Spanish media and, although UEFA decided they were doing nothing

The three officials were working at a

underhand, it pulled them from the Cup

Winners Cup game. tournament in southern Spain involving

Study Faults Teams for Scarcity of Minority Coaches

up to three times a week on the European indoor circuit. The results have been startling. — 3 minutes 31.76 seconds for 1,500 meters (the equivalent of a 3:47.7 mile), 4:42.86 for 2,000 meters (an unofficial world indoor record) and 7:26.14 for 3.000 meters (a world indoor record, since broken by

"The world records are becoming sponsible. "I oeed to do more train-

home in Ethiopia, he geoerally trains an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon, six days a week. In a typical morning workout, he runs five 2,000meter repeats in 5:15 or 5:20, with a three-minute recovery between runs.

His indoor season is virtually over. and his outdoor season starts June 1 in Hengelo in the Netherlands. He can hardly wait because he admits to the

'For me," he said, "training is very

(AFP, Reuters) who plays for Ajax Amsterdam, became ooe of the clubs, UEFA, the governing

By Gerald Eskenazi New York Times Service

NEW YORK - Despite a growing Americans and womeo in the league headquarters of professional basketball. football and baseball, minority groups are still greatly underrepresented among the teams' head coaches and managers, the Northeastern University Center for the Study of Sport in Society reports.

Richard Lapchick, the ceoter's director, said in an interview Tuesday in connection with his Racial Report Card that he was particularly surprised by the fact that college athletic programs have a poorer record of hiring members of minority groups than the pros do.

Lapchick, who has been issuing reports on minority hiring in athletics for nine years, said that in 1997, the percentage of minority group members and women increased to 23 perceot from 21 percent in the National Basketball Association's headquarters, to 20 percent

22 percent in the headquarters of Major League Baseball.

only 20 percent of NBA players were white, while 76 percent of the head coaches were. And in the NFL, 31 percent of the players were white but 90 percent of the head coaches were. In baseball, 58 percent of the players were white, compared with 86 percent of the managers.

In a study of colleges, the center found that although there were 25 headcoaching openings in Division I-A foot-ball after the 1996 season, only one school, New Mexico State, hired a black. Also, the study found that of 249 Division I colleges playing baseball, not one had a black head coach. And in all sports in college, blacks made up 4.2 percent of the head-coaching total. "Jackie Robinson had two dreams

for sport," Lapchick wrote in this year's report. "Increased player opportunities

from 18 percent in the National Football and similar increases for front office and Not one major professional sport League offices, and to 28 percent from coaching positions. The first dream has black majority ownership. been overwhelmingly fulfilled. The larhas a senior physician who is black.

Not one major processor who is black.

missioner. David Stern, and the NFL commissioner, Paul Tagliabue, had tried to lead by example via minority hiring in their offices. Figures for Major League Baseball are incomplete in some cases. Lapchick said in the report that

'sport remains the one national plane where people of color and whites seem to have the greatest opportunity to set a national example for the rest of the country." A premise of the study is that organized sports, including those on the college level, should mirror the racial Among the findings:

• The NBA has the best record of bringing women and minority-group members into management, while base-

· League offices do "far better than teams" in their hiring practices.

composition of society.

ball the worst.

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"Oallas"

 Not one major professional team The only failing grade weot to base ball, where top management, according

Not one major professional sports

to Lapchick's definition, received an This group includes owners. Rich Levin, a spokesman for Major League Baseball, said that 8 percent of baseball's senior executives were minor-

ity group members. "The front office was 19 percent," he said, referring to all kinds of management jobs. "We think those numbers are pretty good." Stem, the NBA commissioner, said,

"We have and will continue to always hire the best possible people. Joe Browne, an NFL vice president,

said, "Under Commissioner Paol Tagliabue's direction, we believe progress has been made, bot work re-

Lapchick said, "Unless the hiring practices filter down to the teams, inequities will remain.

For Superstar Of Running, His Triumph * Is Ethiopia's

By Frank Litsky

NEW YORK - No one in Ethiopia has ordered Haile Gebrselassie to win or else. No one has told him that if he does not win, he disappoints the entire na-

But the world's most successful distance renner feels he must win for his people, who are among the poorest in

"I run for myself and the people of Ethiopia," he said in an interview. "They're always poshing me, and that's good for me. Their demands are not unfair. I like to break world records

They have pushed so well, and he has responded so well, that he won the 10,000 meters in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and the 1997 world chainpionships. In 1997, he set world records (since bettered by Kenyans) in the 5,000

and 10,000 meters. Those accomplishments helped him win the Jesse Owens International Trophy Award, to be awarded Wednesday night in Manhatan. The award, originated in 1981, honors the world's outstanding athlete. Previous winners include Michael Johnson (twice), Carl. Lewis, Edwin Moses, Florence Griffith-Joyner, Mary Slaney and Sebastian Coe from track and field; Eric Heiden and Johann Olav Koss from speed skating;

Greg Louganis from diving and Greg LeMond from cycling. At 5 feet, 4½ inches and 123 pounds. (1.64 meters and 56 kilograms), Gebrselassie, 24, looks more like a gymnast or a jockey than a runner. Anyone who saw him run easily for an hour in Central Park on Tuesday must have diamissed him as just another recreational runner. He is anything but. In Ethiopia, he is

the national hero. When he competes in Europe, he commands an appearance fee of at least \$25,000 plus a healthy bonus for a world record. For the last four weeks, he has raced

Daniel Komen of Keoya). The end is not in sight.

fast." said the man who is largely re-

He is oot exactly goofing off oow. At

weakness of almost everyone who runs.

difficult Competition is easy.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL **NBA STANDINGS** Seattle L.A. Lakers Phoentx Portland Socramento Golden State L.A. Clippers

—Houston 24 (Olgjuwon, Maloney, Price),
Washington 23 (Strickland 15).
Golden State 20 16 24 25—87
New York 16 14 29 23—82
G.S.: Marshall 8-17 3-3 19, Dampier 7-14 121 Sr N.Y: Houston 10-22 3-525, Johnson 7-17
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(Marshall 12), New York 51 (Johnson 14). 25 25 24 25—161 26 24 25 35—110

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MAJOR COLLEGE SCORES North Carolina 72, Wake Forest 53

CRICKET BOMBAY VS. AUSTRALIA REB-DAY MATCH, SECOND

GOLF

Dec. 11-13 at Royal Methourne Golf Ctub in Australia. U.S. player points are based on official money semings from start of 1997 season through World Series of Golf. In-ternational team will be determined by Of-ficial World Ranking at conclusion of World Series of Golf, and will not include any play-er eligible for European Ryder Cup team. Top 10 earn positions, and each captain will have two wild-card pricts.

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2. Tiger Woods, 2.954.633
3. Justin Leonard, 2.026.656
4. Dovid Love 3d, 1,931,703
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3. Nick Price, Zimiotows, 9.04

4. Jumpo Czeiti, Japan, 8.05

5. Steve Etkington, Australia, 6.97

6. Vijay Singh, Fiji. 6.23

7. Frank Nobia, New Zeoland, 5.23

8. Shigeld Marryame, Japon, 9.73

9. Mork McNuthy, Zimbotows, 3.63

10. Stroat Appleby, Australia, 3.99

11. Craig Parry, Australia, 3.22

12. Joe Ozaki, Japon, 3.17

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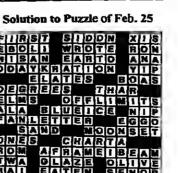
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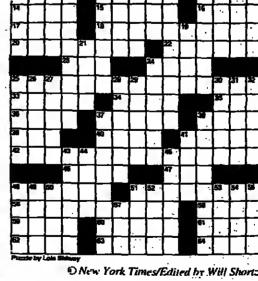
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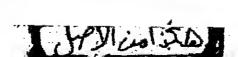


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SPORTS

By Frank Links

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Johnson and Mariners: A Divorce? For Super Star Pitcher Hurt and Disillusioned by Club's Maneuvers By Mike DiGiovanna Los Angeles Times Server PEORIA, Arizona — After a winter of discontent, it looks as if Randy Johnson's glorious run with the Seattle Mariners will soon end. The Mariners have refused to extend their star pitcher's contract and have tried to trade him. The Mariners have refused to extend their star pitcher's contract and have tried to trade him. Star Pitcher Hurt and Disillusioned by Club's Maneuvers But it's obvious Johnson is still upset, because even when not asked specifically about his future and the trade runors, the subjects creep into replies to other questions. "It seems like every spring they've talked about trading me," said Johnson, who was, indeed, the focus of trade talks in 1993 and '95. "How's that going to make me fee!? I have legitimate reasons to be upset, but 1'm trying to be the local specification of the same of the same of the same waited until last Septe long after he proved he was healt pack up his \$6 million option for make me fee!? I have legitimate reasons to be upset, but 1'm trying to be the

their star pincing their star pincing of bincing of bin

"I have no reason to think I'll end my career here." Johnson said, his voice hinting of bitterness and resignation. "It's over and done with. They told me they have no intention of giving me an

NEW YORK No one has ordered Haile Gebrecks of the less of the best of the haile Gebrecks of the haile Gebrecks

But the world's most successful to the world's most successful to the world successful to the world.

I run for myself and the thick in the said in an everything that's happened here. They're always pushing meaning to the said in an everything that's happened here. The winter trade talk—the New York Yankees, Cleveland Indians and Los Angeles Dodgers reportedly were most interested in acquiring Johnson—has carried into spring, and now comes more speculation: If he stays, will Johnson be a clubhouse distraction? Will his frustration detract from his performance? They have pushed so well train detract from his performance? responded so well that her

Olympics and the 1997 has worthy of a long-term contract, to stick worthy of a long-term contract, to stick pionships. In 1997, he set work it to them and show they made a missince bettered by Kenyanship take," Anaheim Angel shortstop Gary DiSarcina said. "And the last thing he

Those accomplishment by needs is more incentive. Johnson, a 6-foot-10 fastballer, con-Trochy Award, to be with sidered holding out this spring but denight in Manhanan E; cided against it. His first day in camp, he issued a written statement saying he "will focus all my energies on winning ne de Michael Johnson (mg : a world championship for Seattle fans. Wanting the controversy to die, he July ner. Mary Slanes and She asked that media questions "focus on the present, and the Mariners' goal of Jonann Olay Kess from sind winning the World Series."

higger man here. 'I'm a professional, I've worked bard to get back to this level after back surgery. I have a lot of respect from my peers, and I'm not going to jeopardize that by not showing up for camp, because that would only hinder my performance during the season." Johnson had the surgery in 1996.

How confusing this must be for Mariner fans, who saw Johnson practically save the franchise by pitching his heart out to lead Seattle to the 1995 American League championship series.

There was talk that summer of the Mariners' being sold and possibly moved, but the state legislature got so wrapped up in the team's emotional run to its first division title, it voted to approve a public funding package for a new stadium, scheduled to open in 1999.

Johnson went 18-2 in 1995, won the Young Award, pitched Seattle to a 9-1 victory over the Angels in a one-game playoff for the West championship and won two games - one in relief - in the dramatic division series victory over the Yankees.

An ailing back limited him to eight starts in 1996, but Johnson returned from surgery to go 20-4 with a 2.28 earned run average and 291 strikeouts last season, leading Seattle to another division ritle. The 34-year-old with a 98-mph fastball and vicious slider is 75-20 over the past five seasons and is regarded by some as the best pitcher in baseball.

five-year, \$57.5 million contract last season. In Baltimore, it earned Mike Mussina a three-year, \$20.5 million extension. In Seattle, it has earned Johnson

Johnson had an inkling his relationship with the Mariners might sour when the team waited until last September, long after he proved he was healthy, to pick up his \$6 million option for 1998.

Johnson wanted an extension, reortedly something along the lines of Maddux's deal, but Mariner President Chuck Armstrong said to extend Johnson's contract with another year remaining on his current deal "is not a good investment," and he announced in November the Mariners would "entertain offers" for Johnson.

The winningest pitcher in franchise history took that to mean he was no longer wanted, and his emotional detachment from Seattle began.

"I'm not trying to set new salary standards; what I'm looking for in this game is security, which is no different from what any athlete or working person wants," Johnson said. "I'll work hard this year and things will take care of themselves, but I feet a little slighted. I brought a lot to the table for the Mariners, and I haven't got the same back from them."

There is another side to this dilemma: If you were the Mariners, would you commit \$50 million to a 34-year-old power pitcher who had major back surgery in 1996?

There seems to be a compromise somewhere --- perhaps a two-year deal with an option for a third year? -- but Johnson seemed most turned off by Seattle's refusal to discuss an extension this winter and the team's thinking that

his back is still a concern.
"It's not like my fastball has decreased 10 mph," said Johnson. "Until 1 miss a bunch of consecutive starts, I In Atlanta, that kind of success and don't consider myself a risk. I'm totally consistency earned Greg Maddux a healthy and in the prime of my career."



The New York Knicks' Charlie Ward, left, watching the ball spin away after a block by Clarence Weatherspoon of the Golden State Warriors.

Led by Mourning's 20, Heat Outlast the Jazz

The Associated Press The Miami Heat won its eighth

straight road game, surviving a late rally by the Utah Jazz to triumph, 104-102, at the Delta Center in Salt Lake City.

"When you play hig games, you know they're going to be harrowingly

NBA ROUNDUP

close," Pat Riley, the Miami coach, said after Tuesday night's game. "We just

tried to hang on.

Alonzo Mourning had 20 points and 9 rebounds as the Heat handed the Jazz only its fifth home defeat of the season. Miami extended its overall winning streak to seven, while Utah had its seven-game winning streek soapped.

Nots 110, Grizzlies 101 Sam Cassell scored 26 of his 28 points in the second half and New Jersey snapped a three-game losing streak hy beating Van-

Kerry Kittles had 29 points and ca-

reer-high 13 rebounds as the Nets handed the Grizzlies their 11th loss in the last 12 games. Bryant Reeves had 31 points and a season-high 15 rebounds for the visiong Grizzlies. Wixards 124, Rockets 112 Chris

Webber, returning to the lineup after missing eight games with a strained shoulder, scored a season-high 36 points and grahbed 13 rebounds as Washington snapped a four-game los-

ing streak Rod Strickland had 31 points and 15 assists for the Wizards, while Tracy Murray added 27 points, including four

3-pointers. Kevin Willis had 20 points and 12

rebounds for the visiting Rockets. Warriors 87, Knicke 82 Golden State became the first Western Conference

team to win at Madison Square Garden this season. It was just the fourth road win and 12th victory overall for the Donyell Marshall had 19 points and

12 rebounds for the Warriors, Allan Houston scored 25 for the Knicks, who had won all seven of their previous home games against teams from the West.

C'Neal had 21 points and 12 rebounds and Eddie Jones scored 20 points as Los Angeles snapped a four-game road losing streak.

Rick Fox and Robert Horry each had 13 points for the Lakers, who played without ailing guard Nick Van Exel. Ray Allen led the Bucks with 19 points and 13 assists, while Tyrone Hill had a season-high 20 rebounds for Milwau-Spurs 105, Timberwolves 99 At San

Antonio, Tim Duncan had 26 points and 19 rebounds and Vinny Del Negro had a season-high 23 points as the Spurs beat

Kevin Gamett led the Timberwolves added 24.

76ers 85, Suns 84 Derrick Coleman hit a 17-foot jumper with less than a second left to give Philadelphia its first victory in Phoenix in 12 years.

Coleman took an inbounds pass from Aaron McKie and hit the dramatic jumper, which snapped the Suns' fivegame winning streak and gave the Sixers their first victory in Phoenix since Dec. 28, 1985.

Allen Iverson scored 27 points for the Sixers, who overcame a 16-point deficit in the final 81/2 minutes. Coleman finished with 18 points and 10 rebounds, while Cliff Robinson had 21 points for the Suns.

Suspension Can't Keep **Gamecocks** From Victory

The Associated Press B. J. McKie served his time and then came on and won the game for South

The guard was suspended for one half by the Southeastern Conference for "intenn'onal and flagrant uosportsmanlike conduct" in South Carolina's victory at

Carolina.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Florida last Saturday. On Tuesday against Georgia, McKie sat out the first half and then scored 15 points, including the game-winner with 1.2 seconds left in the 14th-ranked Gamecocks' 78-76 victory over Georgia.
The Gamecocks (21-5, 11-4 South-

eastern Conference) trailed by 37-32 at

McKie, who apologized for knocking Breni Wrighi of Florida to the floor, scored seven straight points to give South Carolina its first lead of the second half, 51-49. His two free throws with 4:23 left tied it at 70, and his driving layup three minutes later made it 76-76.

Then there was that game-winner, a play where he drove, spun away from two defenders and hit a floater that gave South Carolina its 22d straight home victory.

No. 3 North Carolina 72, Wake Forest 53 The Tar Heels (27-2, 13-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) didn't bounce back impressively from their loss to North Carolina State, falling behind hy 14 points in the first half. But Shammond Williams, playing in

his final home game, had I I points in the opening 4:03 of the second half to lead North Carolina, which tied the college's record for regular-season victories.

No. 22 Illinois 82, Indiana 72 The visiting Illini (21-8, 13-3) kept alive their chances for a share of the Big Ten title with the victory that saw Indiana coach Boh Knight ejected with 9:37 to play.

Kevin Turner, Jarrod Gee and Matt Heldman each scored 16 points for Illinois, which would tie for the regularseason title if Michigan State loses to

Purdue on Sunday.
Indiana (18-9, 9-6), which lost to
Michigan by 48 points Sunday, rallied
from 17 points down to close to 54-44
before Luke Recker was knocked hard to the floor, setting off the chain of events that led to Knight's ejection. Knight, who received a technical foul

in the first half, was given a second and third technical by the referee Ted Valentine. The Illini went on a 7-2 run after the ejection for a 61-46 lead. St. John's 67, No. 23 Syracuse 65 Zen-

don Hamilton had 23 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Red Storm (21-13-4 Big East) to their fifth straight victory and 12th in 13 games.

Ron Artest made a free throw with 45 seconds to play and then added a layup after missing his second attempt for St. John's, which didn't arrive at the Carrier Dome because of a snowstorm until 35 minutes before the scheduled start, causing a 35-minute delay. No. 25 Oklahoma St. 80, Toxas 58 Des-

mond Masoo had 27 points and 14 rebounds and Adrian Peterson added 18 points as the Cowboys (21-4, 11-4) clinched the Big 12 Conference South title. The victory was their seventh straight and ended their seven-game losing streak to the Longhorns.

Le Mona from eveling. At 5 feet, 4-6 inches and 18 Korean Batters to Show 24. looks more likery The Mets Their Metal or a peakey than a runner And Para fir Turaday must barte .

The Associated Press He is anothing but In Eller
The is anothing b

Europe, he commands as go Ping? The Korean national team was allowed to use aluminum bats in an exhibition game against the New York Mets porter indepor circuit. The secoo Wednesday, Major league teams are not allowed to use aluminum bats, which are popular in college and Y title oo Wednesday. Major league popular in college and Little League, and must hit with the

and the for 3,000 traditional wooden bars. The Mets' manager, Bohby Valentine, doesn't care what kind of bas the The Air o records me be-Koreans use.

sa a the man who sheet "I don't think that there's "I need to war any doubt that this team won't get many hits," the is not execut good day. Valentine said as he perused near in Ethicpus he send as a scouting report. They

The Mets' Korean pitcher, lae Weong Seo, who is scheduled to pitch accident Mines The Park recovery beneate THE STATE OF STREET exhibition on Thursday, said and the author season same Memorie in the Netherlank R hitters were definitely more fearsome when wielding alu-

"You can tell the type of hit with a woodeo bat's crack," Seo said through an interpreter, "With the aluminum, you can't tell if it's a solid hit or oot. It could be a hloop single or a home run — same sound."

In other spring training news, at Fort Myers, Florida, Jeff Frye injured a knee in Bostoo's spring training camp. In the middle of a rundown

drill, the second baseman fell to the ground, his left knee apparently damaged. "I heard something pop,"

said Darren Bragg, the runner oo the play. "It definitely didn't sound good. It definitely didn't look good." Frye, coming off his best season and signed to a \$7

million, three-year contract, was driven off the field on a golf cart. About a half-bour later, he left the clubhouse on crutches and was driven away for medical tests.

In Tampa, Hideki Irabu, the New York Yankees' Japanese right-hander who was a



Moises Alou, now an Astros outfielder after he was traded away by the Marlins, fouling one off in Florida.

hitless innings in an in-trasquad game, using a two-seam fastball that he hopes will keep his home-run totals

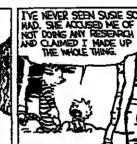
down from last year. Although he struggled with his curveball, Irabu threw 17 of 31 pitches for strikes and didn't allow a hit

bust in his major league de-but last season, pitched two hitless innings in an in-struck out none.

Although he struggled to harness his curveball, he employed a greater variety of pitches than he did last scason, threw more effectively in the lower part of the strike zone and surprised teammates

CALVIN AND HOBBES





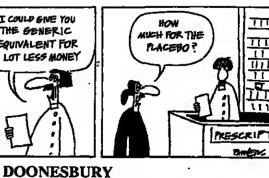




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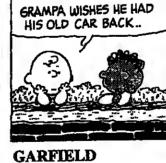
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PEANUTS























From the E-Mail Files

WASHINGTON — This is the latest e-mail that has shown up on my com-

From: Vernon Jordan To: Monica Lewinsky

Good news. I have managed to wangle a job for you with the North Siope Alaska Pipeline Comheadpany, quarters Nome. It's a great opportu-

young person and something no should pass up.

Call me to talk about it.

To: Linda Tripp From: Zither Wiretap, Inc.

We have just received a new Sony digital tape recording system that we think would be right up your ailey. By hiding the mike to your hair, you can record your best friend at 50 feet and pick up instructions from a special prosecutor at the same time. a child you wanted to be an-No one in your business should be without one.

From: Cable Wrestling To: William Ginsberg We notice that you have

A 'Titanic' Record

New York Tones Service LOS ANGELES --- With a worldwide take of \$919.8 million, "Titanic" has become the highest-grossing film in history and appears on film in history and appears on go in and out of President course to become the first to Clinton's office. I am offering pass \$1 billion. Daily Variety the usual immunity that I give reported that James Cameroo's epie of the 1912 disaster testify against a blood relahad passed the former champion, "Jurassic Park," which has taken in \$913.1 million since 1993.

appeared on every TV show in the world except for Cahle Wrestling. We would like to feature you in a match with Madman Killjoy. It would be a no-holds-barred contest, and the purse would go to Monica's defense fund.

From: Ace Zimhlatt.

Sports Editor To: Tara Lipinski

Sorry I got you mixed up in my story oo Monica Lewinsky. I realized afterward that you had never skated in the Oval Office, nor have you ever been given a gold medal to shut you up. We're running a retraction in our Bronx edi-

From: Ace Zimblatt, Sports Editor

To: Monica Lewinsky By accident we inadvertently got you mixed up with the Olympic gold medal win-ner Tara Lipinski. We are well aware that you have oever skated in Nagano, although you did say on Miss Tripp's tapes that ever since you were other Tonya Harding. We're making the correction in our Staten Island edition, as our lawyers advise us it is libelous to call someooe a figure skating champion when she is, in effect, a White House hockey

From: Ken Starr To: Whom It May Concern Enclosed please find a subpoena demanding that you appear in front of the grand jury to testify whom you saw all witnesses provided they tive. A quick response is requested as I am trying to wind up my Whitewater investiga-tioo by the year 2005.

Henny Youngman, King of the One-Liners, Dies

By Mervyn Rothstein
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Henny Young-man, 91, the King of the One-Liners, who implored his audiences for more than six decades to "take my wife — please," died Tuesday in New York.

Youngman had been hospitalized since Jan. 2. He had come down with a cold while on a twoshow-a-night visit to San Francisco the week after Christmas. Back in New York, it developed

The most rapid-fire of rapid-fire comics, he could tell six, seven, sometimes even eight or more jokes a minute, 50 or more jokes in an eight-minute routine. Rarely if ever did a joke last more than 24

For Youngman, every good joke was "really a simple cartoon — you can SEE it," he wrote in his 1991 autobiography, "Take My Life, Please!"

"A man says to another man, 'Can you tell me how to get to Central Park?' The guy says no. 'All right,' says the first, 'I'll mog you here.' Two goys are in a gym, and one is putting on a girdle. 'Since wheo have you been wearing a girdle?' says his friend. 'Since my wife found it in the glove compartment of our car.' ' For much of his career, Young-

miles or more a year in the United States and Canada, appearing in more than 100 engagements at nightclnbs in Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Montreal, Chicago and New York, at sales meetings, colleges, synagogues, banquets and hotels, on cruises to Mexico and the West Indies, on television variety shows and in guest stints with Johnny Carson, Ed Sullivan, Merv Griffin or whoever else would have him, "I can go anywhere, play any date, for any kind of people," Youngman said.

He was not happy unless he got at least 10 bookings a month, 10 ment store in downtown Brooklyn. opportunióes to place his stocky 6- Across the aisle at Kresge's was a

foot-2 frame on a podium, brandish the 19th-century violin that he had taken to calling a "Stradivari-cose," and make people laugh.

Youngman was born March 16, 1906, in London, where he was named Henry Youngman. ("I was so ugly when I was born," he later said, "the doctor slapped my moth-

His father, Yonkel Yungman, a hatmaker, had emigrated from Russia to Paris, then to London and then to the Lower East Side of New York, where, his name changed to Jacob Youngman, he met another immigrant, Olga Chetkin. The two married and went for their honeymoon to London, where Jacob's parents lived. They stayed for a year and a half — during which time Henry was born — until they finally earned enough money to return to the United States.

Back in New York, the Youngmans lived in a tenement owned by Henry's unele.

His father, then a sign painter, loved music, especially opera. Henry's aunt bought him a violin, and his father decided he should become a violinist in the Metropolitan Opera orchestra.

During his high school days, Henry spent most of his time at vaudeville houses in the neighborhood -- the Orpheum, the Fox, the Flatbush, the Prospect. He tried out the jokes he had heard in the theatman would travel a half million ers on friends in a neighborhood candy store. He also played his violin in the orchestra pit of a local movie house — the orchestra consisted only of Henny and a woman playing the piano.

He was known as Hen until age 18, when a headline in Billboard read, "Hen Youngman and Syncopators Play Coney Island Boardwalk." Seeing his first mention in the newspaper, he decided that "hens lay eggs" and became

He got jobs serving summonses, at 50 cents apiece, and printing business cards at Kresge's depart-



Henny Youngman with his "Stradivaricose" in 1983.

A quiet, almost anonymous woman, she allowed him to tell jokes about her, jokes that became his trademark: "I miss my wife's cooking - as often as I can"; "How's your wife?" "Compared to what?"; "I take my wife everywhere, but she always finds her

way home,' She took it with a grain of salt," Youngman said after his wife's death in 1987 at age 82. "She knew I was just joking. She always stuck by me, and that's what counts.

The young Henny's band even-

red-haired young woman selling sheet music named Sadie Cohen; she would become his wife of 58 They became friends, and in the early years Berle would give him anymore. I took Sadie by the elbow any jobs he didn't have time for.

The change from musician to comedian came one night at the Nut
Club in Mountainside, New Jersey,

The secret of his lasting success when the comedy team of Grace and Paul Hartman didn't show up for their performance. Desperate, the manager asked Henny to go on for them. He was a hit — and, as a

was comedy's loss." He played cluhs and speakeasies all over the East Coast. His performances, at least according to his jokes, were oot always successes: "I won't say business was bad at tually went to the Catskills, the Borscht Belt — the proving ground for so many Jewish comedians and singers.

Henny met a comedian who was playing 'Tea for One' '; 'Fellow called up and said, 'What time is the oext show?' I said, 'What time can you make it?' ''

colleague later said, "Musie's loss

Youngman's first big break came in 1937 when he was signed for a six-minute spot on the Kate Smith radio show. He got so many laughs, he was kept on for 10 minutes. After the show, he was made a regular.

"I was a greenhorn," he recalled in his autobiography, written with Neal Karlen. "I came out of left field. I didn't even know enough to copy anybody. I wasn't trainedwasn't taught. But overnight I became a star, so I had to learn the business. I got \$250 for that first show. When I got home, my mother said, 'Since when have you been funny?' I showed her the check -- and that's what convinced her I was

And even though Jack Benny got there first, it was on the Kate Smith show that he first made his violin an important part of his act, alternating his rapid-fire jokes with terrible playing, ofteo a phrase of "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes."
His most famous line, "Take my

wife — please," was born by ac-cident, when he used the phrase to ask a stagehand to show his wife and her friends to their seats before a radio program. "They were all

in show husiness, he said, could be summed up in one Yiddish phrase: "Nem di gelt."
"Get the money," he explained

in his autobiography. "Dou't be-lieve all the baloney people tell you when they're describing what they're going to do for you someday soon. Nem di gelt.'
Even in his difficult final years,

Youngman retained his sense of humor. At age 89, he broke his hip. Several mooths after leaving the bospital, he attended a celebration honoring his 90th birthday. His first quip? "Take my wheelchair — please."

Windsor Dogs Have Their Day

The Associated Press

TEW YORK - Total sales of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor's estate rocketed to \$15.7 million, more than doubling the pre-auction high estimates, as the

couple's "pug collection" went up for grabs.

In what a Sotheby's spokesman called "pugnacious bidding," auction-goers vied for 52 lots of memorabilia on Tuesday that included paintings, porcelain figures, photographs, dog collars and silver dog dishes — all relating to the roug the couple's favorist brand to the pug, the couple's favorite breed.

Bidders included the actor Paul Winfield, the owner of six pugs, who snapped up a pair of earthenware versions for \$2,070, and the writer Tina Sani-Flaherty who bought \$18,400.

Brigid Berlin, a one-time Andy Warhol disciple and self-proclaimed "Queen of Pugs," paid \$6,325 for a blue, 19th-century porcelain pug figure. "I must have the biggest collection of pugs in New York, literally hundreds of them, but I don't have anything that's blue," said Berlin, whose parents were friends of the Windsors.

In morning bidding, two tacks of gaming chips sold for \$24,150. The 400 chips each bear a gilt coronet and the interlaced initials "WE" for Wallis and Edward. The day's sessions added \$1.9 million to the cumulative total earned in five days of sales from the Windsors' former Paris estate.

PEOPLE

THE actor Robert De Niro and Justice Min-1 ister Elisabeth Guigou of France slipped off for a tête-à-tête at a dinner party after the film star was interrogated in an inquiry into a call-girl ring, a oewspaper reported Wednesday. De Nîro and other celebrities were at a dinner at the home of the TV talk-show host Guillaume Durand on Feb. 17, when Guigou suddenly mend up, the satircal and investigative weekly Le Canard Enchaine said. De Niro was still smarting after being taken in by the relice on Feb. 10 feet after the said. being taken in by the police on Feb. 10 for a ninehour interrogation as a witness in the inquiry. "It is oot known whether the minister knew whom high-society trap, but she theo had an exclusive interview with De Niro in another room sheltered from eavesdroppers." the newspaper said. In an interview in the daily Le Monde this week, De Niro declared that he would never return to France. But on Durand's show on Tuesday, he appeared to back off slightly from his statement that he would return his Legion of Honor award. "I was angry when I said I would return the Legion of Honor I was awarded last year," he said. "I've thought about it, I could still do it."

flapjack victory. In Liberal, Kansas, a high school teacher, Christy Riffel, easily won the Shrove Tuesday pancake race, but fell more than five secoods shy of Nathalie Thomas, the winner in the counterpart race in Olney, England. "I gave it my all, but it wasn't enoogh,"

LeAnn Rimes, the 15-year-old country mu-"Don't Mess with Texas" anti-litter advertising campaign, credited with a 72 percent drop in roadside litter since 1986. Rimes received a Grammy Award last year after hits like "Blue," which is used as a basis for her Texas com-

Motley Crue's drummer, Tommy Lee, was arrested in Los Angeles oo a charge of assaulting his wife, the actress Pamela Anderson Lee, who complained of a back injury and a to wear his toupee. Duhbed versions of "Derbroken nail. Lee was ordered held in lien of \$1 rick" became a hit in countries from France to The Union Jack flies once again over another million bail, twice the normal amount for a India in the 1980s.

charge of spousal assault, because he was already oo probation for a battery charge. He had pleaded oo cootest in January to beating a photographer who videotaped him and his wife as they left a nightclub... The police in New York have downgraded a misdemeanor assault charge filed against the actor James Brolin, accused of scuffling with a newspaper photographer outside a movie theater last week as Brolin left with his fiancée, Barbra Streisand. The complaint was reduced to harassment.

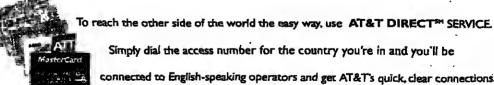
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solving crimes for nearly a quarter century on German televisioo and around the world, is finally hanging up his har. The last episode of "Derrick," the detective show that proved an export success in more than 100 countries, has already been shot but won't be shown until September. The star of the show, 74-year-old Horst Tappert, last year announced his plans to retire after 281 episodes. He said he was looking forward to an end to the series that began in 1974 because he would no longer have



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